Standing Committee on Oversight of
Government Operations and Public
Accounts Review of the 2018 Report of the
Auditor General of Canada to the
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut –
Climate Change in Nunavut
Iqaluit, Nunavut
April 30, 2018

Members Present:

Tony Akoak George Hickes, Chair Joelie Kaernerk Mila Kamingoak Adam Lightstone John Main, Co-Chair Simeon Mikkungwak Margaret Nakashuk Patterk Netser Emiliano Qirngnuq Allan Rumbolt Cathy Towtongie

Staff Members:

Alex Baldwin Stephen Innuksuk

Interpreters:

Andrew Dialla Gela Naqica Mary Nashook Blandina Tulugarjuk

Witnesses:

Michael Ferguson, Auditor General
James McKenzie, Principal
Liliane Cotnoir, Director
Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut
Housing Corporation
Eiryn Devereaux, Assistant Deputy Minister
of Community and Government Services
Sara Holzman, Acting Manager of Climate
Change Adaptation
Bruno Pereira, President of the Qulliq
Energy Corporation

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Pauloosie Suvega, Deputy Minister of Environment

>>Committee commenced at 13:36

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to bring this first Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, first formal hearing of the Fifth Assembly. I would like to welcome everyone to the Chamber and welcome the new Committee Members. I look forward to the proceedings going on.

I would like to ask Mr. Mikkungwak to start us off with a prayer. Thank you.

>>Prayer

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I had mentioned this is the televised hearing on the Auditor General of Canada's 2018 report on climate change in Nunavut.

We have a number of government witnesses as well as the Auditor General of Canada, Mr. Ferguson, here with us as well as some of his officials.

Has everyone had a chance to look at the agenda? Is it agreed to?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to start off with my opening comments and just to start off now that this is my second term as Chair of this Committee. I had the opportunity to see it from both sides of the fence. It gives me even more insight into the abilities of the Committee and the questions that are going to be coming down the pipe as well as the importance from the government's standpoint of hearings such as this to recognize the work of the Office of the

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Δ⁶/«ρC⁶ (Ͻ¹/₂ληυ⁶): Λησίδητες L)Δρη⁶σ⁶ δ⁶βολίδιο⁶ το δολίδιο δο Auditor General on moving our initiatives from the territory of Nunavut forward.

I would like to start off by welcoming everyone to this meeting of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

We have convened today to begin the Standing Committee's televised hearing on the 2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Climate Change in Nunavut. This report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 13, 2018.

I am very pleased to welcome Mr. Michael Ferguson and his officials back to Iqaluit. I am also very pleased to introduce my Standing Committee colleagues:

- The gentleman who did our opening prayer, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Member for Baker Lake;
- Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Member for Hudson Bay;
- Tony Akoak, Member for Gjoa Haven;
- Patterk Netser, Member for Aivilik;
- Joelie Kaernerk, Member for Amittuq;
- John Main, Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove;
- Adam Arreak Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak;
- Cathy Towtongie, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet;
- Emiliano Qirngnuq, Member for Netsilik; and
- Margaret Nakashuk, Member for Pangnirtung.

In the Standing Committee's recent announcement concerning this week's televised hearing, we noted that climate change poses a serious threat to our environment and way of life up here in Canada's North. LYSYION#PL&Y 1&PO

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In March of 2018 the Auditor General of Canada, his office's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and most of Canada's provincial Auditors General released a "collaborative report" on climate change. This joint publication contained a number of Nunavut-specific references to the findings in the Auditor General's report to our Legislative Assembly, as well as his recent reports on climate change that were presented to the other territorial legislatures in Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

This "collaborative report" indicates that "a key initiative in the *Pan-Canadian* Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change is the use of carbon pricing. Carbon pricing is an economic mechanism intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Common forms of carbon pricing are a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade system." I note that in March of 2018 Bill C-74 was introduced in the House of Commons. Part 5 of the bill contains the proposed Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act.

The Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change itself states that the federal government "will work with the territories to find solutions that address their Ccá\bd bnl_c Cdb\pn'_c bnl>c bnl>c ca\phi bnl>c Cdb\pn'_c bnl>c bnl>c ca\phi bnl>c b

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unique circumstances, including high costs of living and of energy, challenges with food security, and emerging economies." Earlier this month the Yukon government released the report that was undertaken in collaboration with the federal government titled *Carbon Pricing in the Yukon – Potential Impact Analysis*. The Standing Committee looks forward to Nunavut's report being tabled in the House during our upcoming spring sitting.

As one of my Committee colleagues recently noted during the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, the Government of Nunavut's recently awarded Request for Proposals for the Supply and Delivery of Bulk Refined Petroleum Products to all Regions and Communities in Nunavut included a new requirement from previous years' RFPs that required proponents to "...include their proposed anticipated rates for [a] ban on [the] use of Heavy Fuel Oil fee and [a] Carbon Tax. Should these fees become a reality, the Petroleum Products Division [of the Department of Community and Government Services] agrees to adjust the successful proponent's transportation and product costs accordingly, upon satisfactory review of the extent to which a HFO ban/limitation and/or Carbon Tax are implemented." This provides one practical example of how carbon pricing will impact our region and residents.

The Auditor General's report to our Legislative Assembly clearly describes how the Government of Nunavut has produced a number of frameworks and strategy documents over the past decade concerning energy and climate change. Although a new Climate Change Secretariat has recently been established in the Department of Environment, the government's overall implementation of its existing frameworks and strategies has been lacking, and I

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anticipate that our questions this week to the government's witnesses will emphasize the importance of developing, tabling, and implementing comprehensive and detailed actions plans.

I also anticipate that we will have the opportunity to engage in a productive dialogue during this televised hearing concerning the government's work to move forward on renewable energy generation. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's recent launch of its new net metering program is an encouraging development in this area.

In recent years the Auditor General of Canada has submitted a number of important reports to Parliament on topics of concern to this region of the nation, including civil aviation infrastructure in the north, the Nutrition North Canada Program, and oral health programs for Inuit and First Nations. The Standing Committee applauds his office's ongoing commitment to reporting to Parliament on issues that affect the north. I note that the Auditor General's fall 2018 report to Parliament will include a chapter on "broadband in remote regions," and I can assure him that this report will find a significant audience up here.

I also note that information which is currently on the website of the Office of the Auditor General indicates that his 2019 report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will be on the topic of employment. I anticipate that this week's televised hearing will provide us with the opportunity to obtain a "sneak preview" of the focus and scope of this audit.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer two suggestions to the Auditor General for topics about which we would welcome performance audit reports from his office during the life of this Legislative Assembly. ρὑσςηον ὁρλςνηςζαν Λιλονσν ρσύσςρισς καις Ανθρονίς Ανθρο

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As the Auditor General will be very much aware, a significant portion of the Government of Nunavut's annual budget is allocated to providing grants and contributions to individuals and organizations, including for-profit private businesses. The government's most recent annual report on grants and contributions expenditures, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 21, 2017, indicates that it spent a total of \$17,251,000 on grants and \$429,915,000 on contributions during the 2016-17 fiscal year. However, an issue that a number of my colleagues have been raising in the Legislative Assembly concerns the extent to which the government is able to determine the value that it actually receives from these expenditures, especially with respect to such measures as employment for local residents in relation to grants and contributions that are provided to for-profit businesses.

Thanks to the past work of the Office of the Auditor General, the Nunavut Development Corporation's annual reports to the Legislative Assembly now provide significant levels of detail concerning the actual results of its activities and those of its subsidiaries, and we would very much welcome similar improvements in the area of grants and contributions spending and reporting.

The second topic concerns the other side of the proverbial ledger: revenue generation and management. Although it has been said that elected politicians "can find a million ways to spend a hundred dollars," it is important that we also pay close attention to the government's revenues. For example, the extent to which the territorial government is maximizing its potential sources of revenue is unclear, as is the extent to which the government is collecting all revenues owed to it. A related issue concerns the extent to

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which the territorial government is utilizing all tools available to it to generate revenues from the natural resources extraction industry.

I will now briefly cover some logistical and housekeeping matters.

In keeping with parliamentary practice, the Standing Committee anticipates reporting its findings and recommendations from this televised hearing to the Legislative Assembly during our upcoming spring sitting. Under Rule 91(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, the government will be required to provide a formal response to our report within 120 days of its presentation.

I ask all Members, witnesses, and visitors in the gallery to ensure that their cellphones, BlackBerrys, and other electronic devices do not disrupt these proceedings.

In order to assist our interpreters and technical staff, I ask that all Members and witnesses go through the Chair before speaking.

This hearing is being televised live across Nunavut on community cable stations and the direct-to-home satellite services of both the Bell and Shaw networks.

Transcripts of the hearing will be posted on the Legislative Assembly's website at a later date.

Members of the Standing Committee have been provided with a number of reports and other documents for their ease of reference during this hearing. For the benefit of our witnesses and interpreters, I ask Members to be precise when quoting from or making reference to specific documents.

I would again like to welcome the Auditor

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General of Canada, Mr. Michael Ferguson, to our hearing and I now invite him to deliver his opening statement. Thank you. *Nakurmiik*.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Unnusakkut*. Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to be here in Iqaluit today to discuss our report on climate change in Nunavut. The report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on March 13, 2018. With me today are James McKenzie and Liliane Cotnoir who were responsible for the audit.

In this audit, we wanted to know whether the Government of Nunavut had taken measures to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change and taken measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Nunavut.

From reduced arctic sea ice to warming permafrost, the impacts of climate change are visible across Nunavut. We found that the Government of Nunavut was not adequately prepared to respond to these impacts.

We found that the government released a strategy to help Nunavut adapt to climate change. The government also released an energy strategy to reduce the territory's dependence on fossil fuels and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, the government did not have implementation plans that outlined when and how the objectives of these strategies would be met and who would be responsible for what. It also did not report publicly on the implementation of these strategies.

Implementation plans help ensure a coordinated approach to address climate change. Reporting on the implementation of these strategies supports transparency and helps hold the government accountable for results.

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We also found that the Government of Nunavut did not fully assess the risks of climate change to Nunavut and Nunavummiut. Although the government's adaptation strategy had identified the potential risks that climate change poses to Nunavut, the impacts or likelihood of those risks were not analyzed or ranked. The Department of Environment proposed a number of actions to better understand the risks of climate change, such as assessing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, including on hunting and traditional ways of life. However, these actions were not done.

It is important to identify and rank climate risks to ensure that the government prioritizes what it needs to do and directs its actions and resources to the areas of highest risk.

In terms of actions taken to adapt to climate change, we found that the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation had measures in place to safeguard government buildings and public housing units from the impacts of climate change on permafrost. For example, these organizations conduct building assessments that cover features such as foundations that can be damaged by permafrost settlement or degradation. However, these assessments were not always carried out as scheduled.

Both organizations had also not consistently incorporated measures to manage snow and water around buildings to help prevent permafrost degradation into their operations and maintenance procedures.

Nunavut is entirely dependent on fossil fuels, such as diesel, to generate electricity and heat homes. We found that the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Department of

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Community and Government Services took actions to make power plants, public housing, and government buildings more energy efficient.

We also found that the Qulliq Energy Corporation undertook studies to better understand the potential of renewable energy in Nunavut, such as wind and solar. However, factors such as high capital costs and technical challenges presented Nunavut with barriers to implementing renewable energy projects that would help reduce the territory's greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

We made ten recommendations to the four organizations involved in this audit. They agreed with our recommendations.

We would also like to bring to your attention that the federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development presented a collaborative report to Parliament on March 27, 2018 that provides an overall assessment of whether federal, provincial, and territorial governments have met their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. It is an independent, big picture review of the state of governmental actions on climate change commitments across the country.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening statement. My colleagues and I would be happy to answer any questions Committee Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. I would like to go on to the government witnesses. I'll start off with the Department of Environment, if you want to start off by introducing yourself and any officials with you and then proceed to your opening comments. Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

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Mr. Suvega: *Qujannamiik*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, all MLAs and everyone here, including my staff.

(interpretation ends) From the Department of Environment with me here today to my right is Sara Holzman, our Acting Manager of Climate Change Adaptation with the Department of Environment, me, Pauloosie Suvega, Deputy Minister for the Department of Environment.

I am joined by my colleagues here on the left, Eiryn Devereaux, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Community and Government Services, Bruno Pereira, our President with the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We will be making our opening comments in that order.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear today before the Standing Committee to speak on the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's report on climate change preparation and activities of the Government of Nunavut, in particular to the Department of Environment. We would like to thank the Office of the Auditor General for their diligent work on the audit and the accompanying report.

Climate change is a very pressing issue for Nunavummiut and the Government of Nunavut as a whole. The Department of Environment Climate Change Secretariat was established in 2016 as a result of a merger between the Department of Environment's climate change section and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Energy Secretariat.

The Climate Change Secretariat plays a leading interagency role in:

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- Developing adaptation programs, policies, and partnerships which assist Nunavut in adapting to and minimizing the projected impacts of climate change;
- Leading the interagency development of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to lessen the territory's reliance on imported diesel;
- Encouraging the exchange of knowledge and information about climate change based on science and *Inuit*Qaujimajatuqangit; and
- Coordinating climate change actions for government departments, agencies, and communities.

While I am proud and impressed by the quantity and quality of the work of the secretariat, capacity is a significant challenge for the department's ability to provide comprehensive interagency coordination on climate change. We are committed to building our capacity to be able to appropriately respond to climate change issues.

Even though we're a small and relatively new component of the Government of Nunavut's joint response to climate change, we have been able to achieve numerous successes. Some of our actions to date include:

- Participation in the development of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change;
- Access to over \$30 million over the next several years in federal funding to support the GN's effort to adapt to and mitigate climate change;
- The [development] of various strategies for adaptation and mitigation and draft implementation plans;
- Along with the governments of Yukon and the NWT, we have developed the *Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy* and

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- are participating in the development of the federal Northern Adaptation Strategy;
- The coordination of projects to better understand the impacts of climate change in Nunavut; and
- The development of the Nunavut Clean Growth Working Group that will put together federal funding applications for the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund.

The Department of Environment agrees with the Auditor General's recommendations to develop an implementation plan for the Government of Nunavut's climate change strategies and that we conduct a Nunavut-wide analysis of climate change risks. The results of this analysis should be used when considering our government's future climate change priorities and actions. In this regard, the department has identified the following action items:

- The existing Sustainable Development Advisory Group is being evaluated as a form for interdepartmental conversations around climate change;
- We are reviewing all current and draft strategies to ensure that they are relevant and aligned with the government's priorities and responsibilities; and
- We are currently exploring options for the development of a Nunavut-wide climate change risk assessment.

Dealing with climate change is a shared responsibility and is not the sole responsibility of the Department of Environment or its Climate Change Secretariat. I would like to extend my thanks to my colleagues at the Department of Community and Government Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation, as well as others for their ongoing support in addressing this important role and issue. Collaboration

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between all departments and agencies is required to in order to provide an appropriate response to the issues presented within the audit, and those that are to become more significant as climate change continues to impact Nunavut.

With respect to all of my comments here today, we remain committed to continuing our work with the federal government, Inuit organizations, and other co-management partners to ensure that the Government of Nunavut is a leader in addressing climate change. There will be other comments from our colleagues in the other departments here today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Standing Committee Members. On behalf of the Department of Community and Government Services, I would like to express our appreciation for this opportunity to discuss the climate change in Nunavut report prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

Our department participated fully throughout 2017 with the Office of the Auditor General in regard to the data collection reflected in this report. We agree with the four OAG recommendations that are targeted at our department and we commit to working towards the identified actions in conjunction with the other successful climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts we currently undertake, such as the Kivalliq Energy Management Project, a \$23 million project to implement energy measures in 62 GN-owned buildings across the Kivalliq region that will result in a 20 percent reduction in energy costs, or approximately \$2 million annually in cost savings, and more ▷'b▷/ሲჼb▷/ቴ ▷�ơ, Δ/LՐጋՐ

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importantly we expect to achieve 1,400 tonnes of greenhouse gas emission reductions as a result of these energy upgrades.

CGS does support the GN's commitment to the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. Our department recognizes that climate change adaptation and mitigation are important key performance indicators in relation to the various type of institutional, recreational, commercial and office facilities that we construct, operate, and maintain. As the largest portfolio owner in Nunavut, we have an important responsibility to pursue energy reductions in our facilities, to design future buildings that are more efficient, and to mitigate the degradation of permafrost that lies beneath our buildings.

The OAG report included four recommendations for which CGS department accepts:

- 1. The first recommendation: CGS should standardize its building assessment procedures and complete its building assessments according to its required schedule. We anticipate achieving the standardization by the end of this fiscal year.
- 2. The second recommendation: CGS should ensure that the climate change projections are incorporated into geotechnical site investigations. As noted, CGS has met this requirement in five of the seven projects audited. CGS will ensure that climate change projections are incorporated into all future geotechnical site investigations and reflected in our contractual requirements.
- 3. The third recommendation: CGS should

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ensure that its public reporting on the Nunavut Energy Management Program is up to date. We have been reporting in the past and we will continue to do so. In terms of the specific update referenced in the report, we will ensure this is achieved by the end of 2018.

4. The fourth recommendation: CGS should develop best practices for managing snow and water to prevent permafrost degradation for GN-owned buildings. CGS will continue to work with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss and support the municipalities in the development and use of best practices for managing snow and water to prevent permafrost degradation. CGS will also undertake improved internal processes to mitigate water and snow relative to our operations across our portfolio of owned assets.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with our partners within the Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation relative to the best practices and new technologies in the areas of construction and facility management that will help reduce emissions while demonstrating our commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to answer any questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Next I would like to proceed with Mr. Pereira, but I would just like to remind any witnesses and Members that we do have simultaneous interpretation and I would ask that you just keep a pace that allows them to do a proper job. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Members. I would like to begin by thanking the Members of the Standing Committee for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's climate change in Nunavut report. Clearly the Qulliq Energy Corporation is well positioned to play a key role in the territorial energy strategy, including supporting any territorial emission reduction targets.

The QEC supports the new Government of Nunavut's mandate, Turaaqtavut, and the priority area of Pivaallirutivut: developing and managing our renewable and nonrenewable resources for the long-term benefit of Nunavummiut. This links directly to the recommendation put forth by the OAG to the QEC: to determine the territory's renewable energy targets and priorities in the context of the QEC. We are achieving this by working with our government partners, such as the Department of Community and Government Services, the Climate Change Secretariat, and of course the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The QEC supports Nunavut's commitment to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean *Growth and Climate Change*, which was focused on reducing carbon emissions across the territory.

The need to be responsible stewards of our lands so that it is intact for future generations while providing the necessary, reliable and affordable electrical and in some instances heating needs that Nunavummiut require is arguably the QEC's toughest challenge in the coming years. To face this challenge, the QEC is exploring all sources of alternative and renewable energy that can be used to replace diesel and manage greenhouse gas emissions.

The QEC is exploring the feasibility of developing and implementing any energy

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source determined to be practical and financially viable to our customers. These solutions range from the most achievable, such as solar or expanding our residual heating system, to long-term, technically complex solutions, such geothermal or perhaps nuclear. We are actively seeking funding through federal programs to expand district or residual heating operations, replace existing diesel power plants with more efficient generator sets to improve energy efficiencies, and to add proven renewable and alternative energy generation sources to the corporation's energy mix.

Why have we not moved to and constructed renewable energy projects? The QEC has publicly stated that we would welcome the opportunity to park our diesel generators and use renewable energy sources. The QEC's goal is not to continue using diesel; it is to provide reliable energy to all of our communities. Diesel is our past. In large part it is still our present, but we think our future lies in other technologies.

However, let me emphasize that our greatest challenge is not only technology. One of the QEC's greatest challenges is funding capital projects, including any new technologies. We currently have 13 generation stations to rebuild at a cost of over \$300 million. This places a significant restriction on the projects we are able to pursue, such as renewable energy projects. It is important for Members and the public to understand both the requirements of the corporation to fulfill its mission statements and the challenges we face as we move away from diesel to protect our environment.

I would like to thank the Office of the Auditor General for their work in establishing the recommendations put forth in this report. I commit to working and engaging with our partners to understand PrΓ4PQU \«8D44PD44P 475°0'6'0' 4'L.) Pabba rijae dל $^{\circ}$ UCD α b $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ$ ﴿ ١٩٠٤ ٥٠٠ ١٩٠٥ كا ١٩٠٤ كا ١٩٠ ᠘ᡶ᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘ >Δ°D°b°°∩σ°°, √dσρσ°°√Δ°, ۵۰۲۵۰۰ ۵٬۰۵۰٬ کرحه ۵٬۰۵۰ Ďᡆᢛᡅᠬᡙᢣᡤ᠙ᢂᡧᢖ°ᡠᡃ᠘ᢛᠧᢧ. ʹʹͰϲϧϽͿϲͺϧϭϘ϶Ϣϯͺͺ $^{\circ}$ ישליטל מייררמיסליטל ᠘᠘᠐᠙᠙᠘ᡱᡠᡕ᠂᠙᠘ᢐ᠒ ᢀ᠘ᢏᡥᢗᡥ᠘ᢏᡥᢗᡊᢑ᠘ᢏᡥᡳᠫᡑ᠘ᡧᢐ᠒ᡥᢧᡐ᠘ $\dot{\mathsf{D}}^\mathsf{L}\mathsf{L}^\mathsf{rp}\mathsf{d}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{D}\mathsf{d}^\mathsf{g}\mathsf{G}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ $^{\text{L}}$ ۲۵۹۳۹ محکر ۲۳۹۹۹۹ عصاب $4d^{4}C^{4}VL^{4}V^{4}D^{4}D^{5}$

how Nunavut and the QEC specifically can make a positive contribution towards mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Last but certainly not least, we will finish off with Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say "thank you" for allowing me to be here to speak to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear today before the Standing Committee to speak to the report of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada with respect to climate change preparation and activities of the Government of Nunavut and in particular the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I would like to start by thanking the Office of the Auditor General for their work on this audit and report, in particular Jim McKenzie, lead auditor.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation participated fully in the work of the Auditor General. We agree with the recommendations in the report, which are logical, practical and which build on work that the corporation has already started. We will implement the identified actions in the 2018-19 fiscal year and going forward.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation in housing construction, design, and programming is a priority. The Nunavut Housing Corporation supports a proactive,

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whole-of-government approach, including taking coordinated action through the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, which includes 60 targeted and collaborative actions to improve housing in Nunavut. Several of the actions within the blueprint touch on issues important to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

As part of this work, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will establish a general process for the adoption of new construction and maintenance technology, including retrofits, ensuring that new technology is appropriate within the Nunavut context and meets climate change priorities. This work will be carried out in collaboration with Community and Government Services, the Nunavut Research Institute, and the GN's Climate Change Secretariat.

Given the high cost of utilities across the territories, more energy-efficient homes and more sustainable energy solutions have the potential to reduce cost of housing over the long term while also assisting in setting and meeting fuel and electricity targets, as per the Auditor General's report. This is a priority of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

With respect to two important recommendations within the report of the Auditor General, condition rating assessments as well as heat recovery ventilator maintenance, the corporation will ensure that these important processes are completed in a timely and regular fashion and that adequate and regular support is provided to each of the 25 local housing organizations in order to achieve this objective.

With respect to all of my comments today, continuing engagement with the federal government, including the Canadian High Arctic Research Station, as well as our

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territorial partners and Inuit organizations, is a vital part of this work. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. We will go right into the questions, starting off with the Background and Focus of the audit, which are paragraphs 1 through 16.

Before we do so, I would just like to make an observation/comment. Typically, when we've had these hearings in the past, we have found it a lot more productive to have a copy of the government's action plan provided to the Committee beforehand so that it would allow some more precise focus in our lines of questioning, especially to the government departments. I'm going to say I'm a little disappointed to not have had that opportunity at this hearing.

I will expect that our letter to the government will "request" a copy of that action plan.
There are only 10 recommendations from the report. I will say that I'm a little disappointed that that opportunity wasn't given to
Committee Members. It bypasses some of the more general questions and allows us to get into more precise topics of lines of questioning to government departments, but I'll leave that alone for now.

I will start taking names for any questions from Committee Members from paragraphs 1 through 16. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the Auditor General and his staff.

Your report indicates that "In 2016, many legislative audit offices across Canada decided to look at the issue of climate change and developed similar audit approaches and questions to examine climate change action within their governments." In March of 2018, you and most of Canada's provincial

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Auditors General released your collaborative report on climate change. Are you and your provincial counterparts planning on undertaking more collaborative audits on the same topic and, if so, which topics are you considering? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. We read this report with great interest. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, before I answer that question, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to pick up on your comment about the departmental action plans, if I may, because that is a fundamental practice that we see in public accounts committees across the country as the need for departments to be presenting departmental action plans to committees as part of the hearing. I think you're right on raising that issue.

In terms of future collaborative reports, as Auditors General across the country, we get together quite often and discuss the work that we are doing. Right now there are no specific plans for additional collaborative audits. Although, as you are all are well aware, not only do we fulfill the role of Auditor General here in Nunavut, but we do the same thing in Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Often that gives us the chance to coordinate our own work across the three territories and the issues that we're looking at across the three territories. I would say there is more chance of us coordinating audit topics amongst the three territories in the near future than in fact having a collaborative audit amongst all Auditors General across the country.

At this point I can't give you any specific topics. I can just tell you that in areas such as health and the environment we do consider, as Auditors General in all of the jurisdictions across the country, whether there might be some topics that we could do as a

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. That leads into my next question actually. In terms of our counterparts across the north in the Northwest Territories and Yukon, are there any specific lessons or best practices that the Government of Nunavut can learn from these other two northern jurisdictions, or are there any specific lessons or best practices that the other two territories can learn from Nunavut with respect to how governments can and should be preparing for and adapting to climate change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the collaborative report that the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development issued on climate change action, there are various tables in that report that explain which jurisdictions were doing better on each of the individual topics. Throughout that report you can see a comparison of all of the jurisdictions that participated in that audit.

In terms of the three territories, I would say that none of them were doing everything, of course. Some had some places where they were doing better, whether it was on the planning or the risk management. I would think in general it was in specific areas. We noted that here in Nunavut there was good work that was being done on sort of the geotechnical aspects and also some work on identifying potential impacts on water availability and mapping permafrost.

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I think we saw in some other jurisdictions, probably in Yukon, if my memory is correct, some good practices on impacts on certain wildlife species. I think that if you went and looked at each of the individual reports, you would be able to sort of piece together some individual actions that were good actions. I think each jurisdiction could learn from that.

I think it might be a good idea and I think we heard that some of that happens for the three territories to work together on these issues in terms of how they plan and how they identify risks, how they assess risks, and what types of actions could be in place to mitigate problems such as permafrost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. The next name I have on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering: to what extent do current public sector accounting standards in Canada require federal, provincial and territorial governments to quantify and account in their annual public accounts for the potential financial impact of climate change on their assets and operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some specific accounting standards that require organizations and governments to assess some impacts. The primary one would be requiring governments to record their environmental liabilities, but that would be more about what would have to be done to clean up a site. There could be a climate change impact on that. For example, if you're talking about a mining site where the contamination is contained, perhaps, by the permafrost and if the permafrost is melting,

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then perhaps the contamination would spread. It could cause an increase in liabilities.

Also I think the other place where it could be pertinent given accounting standards right now would be if the impacts of climate change could cause buildings to shift, buildings, floors, and things to crack and walls to shift. It could result in a reduction in the useful life of certain tangible capital assets that would have to be written down.

There's no overall accounting standard that says you have to put an overall cost on the impacts of climate change, but the impacts of climate change could have an impact on individual liabilities and individual assets that would have to be accounted for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your report to the Nunavut legislature does not discuss the issue of carbon pricing and did not "examine the role" of the Department of Finance in addressing climate change in Nunavut. Why did you decide not to address the issue of carbon pricing in your report to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Carbon pricing would be a policy decision. When we do an audit, we don't audit government policy. What we audit is how government implements policies. We are looking at things like what the government has said that it's going to do and then whether it's going to do it.

Should the Government of Nunavut decide

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that it's going to use a carbon pricing approach, and I think we have heard today some introduction of legislation, then that would be something that we might consider at a future time, but at this point because carbon pricing wasn't part of the strategy at the point in time that we did the audit, there was nothing really for us to audit in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are for the Office of the Auditor General.

Based on the results on the collaborative audit, which jurisdiction in Canada has made the most progress in producing comprehensive strategies and implementation plans to address the impacts of climate change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, as I answer that question, I'll just make a comment on why it was decided to put together this collaborative report.

Again, Canada overall as a nation has made commitments on the climate change area on how it's going to manage and approach climate change. That is obviously not just a federal government responsibility or job. There are all of the jurisdictions within Canada that have to be part of that. We wanted to know what was going on not just at the federal level but at the provincial and territorial level as well to determine whether it looked like Canada was going to be on the path to reach the targets that it has committed to.

The result of the overall collaborative report

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shows that there were only two jurisdictions in Canada that were on track to meet their targets, being Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Even if all of the work that was being done or being planned to be done under the pan-Canadian framework that was implemented, even that wouldn't be enough to meet Canada's commitments under the *Paris Agreement*. There is still a lot of work to be done.

I think, in terms of the specifics of strategies and implementation plans, again, that's the purpose of the report on the collaborative report. I think it shows you in those tables which jurisdictions have made the most progress. I think that's something that the Government of Nunavut can use as it looks for different examples on either the strategies or the planning. I think, at this point, none of the jurisdictions have done everything that should be done on those two areas.

While there can be some good examples, I think there is also an opportunity for jurisdictions such as Nunavut to put together a comprehensive approach, comprehensive strategies, implementation plans, and specific actions on climate change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the Auditor General for his response. My next question is: how many jurisdictions in Canada have introduced legislation to specifically address the issue of climate change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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That is a difficult question to answer. I think there are some jurisdictions that have introduced specific climate change legislation and there are other jurisdictions where climate change, perhaps, is referred to or some of the aspects of climate change are referred to in other pieces of legislation. I don't have a specific answer to that, Mr. Chairman. It would be something that I think would take a bit of work to go through each of the jurisdictions and look at various pieces of legislation to see to what degree it addresses climate change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Your report indicates that your audit staff "conducted field work in Iqaluit and in a select number of communities." In which communities did this fieldwork take place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could, Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Ms. Cotnoir to answer that question, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Ms. Cotnoir.

Ms. Cotnoir: Thank you. For the fieldwork, we went to Arviat and we also went to Rankin Inlet. We wanted to go to Coral Harbour, but unfortunately we had flight delays and it was just before July 1. There was no way we could make it, but we decided to go to Arviat because that's where the territorial maintenance headquarter is for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Also we

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were told that they were experiencing problems in the community with some of their infrastructure. Also we were told that they had some problems with polar bears approaching the community.

When we went to Arviat, we met with several people working for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, some individuals working for CGS, and also we met with individuals working for the hamlet. When we went to Rankin Inlet, we decided to go there because it's a regional hub where the government and CGS have many people working on different aspects of infrastructure. We did site visits also in Rankin Inlet.

For Coral Harbour, I was very disappointed that I couldn't go there. We tried to compensate by having phone discussions with the people in charge of some of the infrastructure. The discussions I had on the phone were very useful to understand some of the challenges that they were facing with their infrastructure in Coral Harbour.

We also had some discussions with some SAOs in some communities, including in Pangnirtung and Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Merci. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are for the Department of Environment.

The Department of Environment's 2017-18 main estimates included funding for 7.0 positions in the Climate Change Secretariat. As of today, how many of these positions are filled by indeterminate employees, how many are filled by term employees, how many are filled by casual employees, and finally how many positions are vacant?

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. At the moment only one, I believe, is permanent, one is term, there are two casuals, and the remaining is vacant. Having said that, I'm working pretty much as soon as I started with the department, trying to build capacity around this. I have been working with other departments, not just Finance but others as well to see how we can address this going forward, not just within the Department of Environment but the government as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. We all know capacity is an issue across every program and area across the government, but these remaining three vacant positions, I was wondering: would it be possible for the department to fill these positions in the 2018-19 fiscal year and are these positions of specialized requirements that may make it more difficult to fill these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Good question, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of trying to fill the vacancies, we are working through the hiring process where possible. One of the pieces I had alluded to is also reaching out. I have reached out externally outside of the government as well to see how we can add and build capacity, whether it's through secondment

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opportunities with our federal partners and/or agencies, and also working with others like Inuit organizations or not-for-profit organizations.

Since coming in, even given the vacancies, I'm very pleased with a lot of the work that has been developed. My main concern going forward is the individuals who have been working in the secretariat are working quite hard and I'm very appreciative of that. I want to ensure that they know that we, not just in the department but in the government as a whole, are there to support them. I'm trying to bring a wider range of support to the secretariat there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm wondering if you can answer the second part of Mr. Lightstone's question on whether the positions that are vacant are specialized skills that may create any recruitment challenges. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are again working with Finance to try to review and assess all of the job descriptions and if they need to be rewritten, they could be rewritten. In terms of are they are specialized, some of them could be, but if we do rewrite them, we would have to work at that through the process with our partners like the Department of Finance before we put these things publicly out to competition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that detailed response. The Department of Environment's 2017-18 main estimates included a \$1.3 million budget for the Climate Change Secretariat. Now that the 2017-18 fiscal year ended last month, how much of its 2017-18 budget did the Climate

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Change Secretariat spend and how much of the funding was lapsed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With a bulk of these vacancies, the lapses would tend to go with those vacancies going forward.

What I wanted to do going forward was take a wider view and an assessment of beginning to try to take a look at how other vacancies or other areas of support could be provided to the secretariat as well. If you don't have the resources there such as staff, the human resource component to undertake some of the activities, such as programs and services, you're going to continue to have these lapses year after year. I want to ensure that a wider range of support is there so that they have an action plan and implementation plan to go with it.

It's difficult to say what that's going to look like going forward. I'm hoping that we don't continue to have these lapses. There's a lot of important work that's currently being done and is beginning to be reported on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. The next name I have on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. (interpretation) I tried to press a button because I forgot that we have a technician.

Last summer I was working with the hamlet council in Coral Harbour and I was working with her by phone. I recognize her voice from our conversation when I was in Coral Harbour. (interpretation ends) I recognize your voice now. I was the person that you

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dialogued with in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Chairman, the formal response from the Deputy Ministers of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment states that "...governments are committed to continuing to work together to maintain momentum and achieve results. This continued work includes implementing carbon pricing systems across Canada in 2018." To what extent is the Department of Environment involved in the issue of implementing a carbon pricing system in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Good question. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, we play a supporting role. Sometimes it's directly advising the Department of Finance. Other times it's some of our policy work, whether it's within our territorial government, with our pan-territory partners, or with some of our involvement nationally as well as some of our provincial and territorial partners. We don't have any specific dedicated resources within the department that are there to analyze and produce some of these reports for the Department of Finance, but we do play a supporting role. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In March of 2018 the Auditor General and most of his provincial counterparts released their collaborative report on climate change. This report included a formal "Response from the Deputy Ministers of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment." Was the government involved in the preparation of this response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Another good question. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a limited capacity we did feed into national responses. I think a lot of this work also depends on our interdepartmental collaboration as well, which is why we also mentioned our involvement in things like the Sustainable Development Advisory Group, which is an important policy forum for a lot of our interdepartmental advice, not just to the Department of Finance for things like carbon pricing. A lot of our policy work goes into things like developing funding, but also into making important decisions on which capital projects will proceed on, just as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. When I look at the report, it's got on page 27 of it a response from the Deputy Ministers of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. When you say you're playing a supporting role for the Department of Finance, did Department of Finance officials attend that conference with you? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wasn't there myself. A lot of times when specific department officials aren't able to be there, they are there on behalf of those other departments as well. They report back to departments and Ministers' offices when they return, especially if there are commitments or questions that are passed back and forth "interjurisdictionally." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll leave that alone for now and maybe one of my colleagues might pick that up a little bit later. I don't have any names. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm

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directing this to the department. The proposed *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* was recently introduced in the House of Commons as part of the federal government's budget implementation bill. Will the Government of Nunavut be making a formal submission concerning this bill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. As we can see the heft of this bill, all Members didn't get a full copy of it, but Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to prepare a submission. It will depend largely on our discussions and participation, again, through things like interdepartmental discussion forums like the Sustainable Development Advisory Group, and focusing some of our work going forward.

I think there are a lot of important aspects that we need to keep an eye on and use reports like these and also the outcomes of reports not just from the OAG but important discussions that are taking place here today as well. We will certainly take that into consideration and prepare this with our partners in the departments as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me, I would like to go to his opening comments on page 1, "The Climate Change Secretariat plays a leading interagency role in," and I'm going to read bullet No. 3, "Encouraging the exchange of knowledge and information about climate change based on science and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*." How are you collecting information on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you for that question. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are quite a few ways in which that is being implemented today. One of the obvious ones that we're doing is on monitoring of ice specifically with the department and with some of our comanagement partners in communities, looking at things like ice thickness, the length of ice, how long it has been in the season, and its impact on different groups, whether it's hunters, animals, shipping, those sorts of things. We're working again directly with communities' co-management partners; in some cases HTOs as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions for the Department of Environment. Your opening remarks mentioned the Nunavut Clean Growth Working Group. I wonder if you could provide some more information in terms of who is on that working group, is it a new group, and how long has it been around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is membership from each of the departments and agencies that presented here today. I'm also going to be calling upon wider range of support from government departments and agencies. I would like to also expand that a little bit to see if we can expand it to outside government as well, but I haven't made those approaches yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It mentions in here that the working group will put together federal funding applications for the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund. Are there any federal funding applications that have been submitted to date by the Department of Environment or under this group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are about five currently that I'm generally aware of, but it will depend on prioritizing funding applications as well. A lot of the funding implications have investments tied into them where the GN would have to put in 25 percent of its own source funds as well. It really depends on which projects are going to be prioritized going forward, not just for this fund but other projects as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. Thanks for the response. I wonder if you could provide a bit more detail on the five funding applications, obviously not getting into every little detail, but in terms of the amounts particularly and the purpose. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues here today would be able to provide a bit more detail than I would. A lot of these are their proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

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thank the Member for the question. I can only speak to CGS at the preliminary stage in terms of considerations that were brought forward.

The one that we were looking to prioritize for our department into the mix of potential projects for the LCEF fund is the next phase of the Nunavut Energy Management Program. I spoke earlier about the Kivalliq Energy Management Program. Within the last 18 months we have undertaken a feasibility study for South Baffin. It's our intent to proceed with a feasibility study for North Baffin and then Kitikmeot in subsequent years.

We put forward as our priority for consideration into that particular federal funding program was the implementation of similar energy measures that we are about to undertake in the Kivalliq, but for the South Baffin region. That's the application that CGS is looking to prioritize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. In terms of the four other applications, I'm just wondering where those are coming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Main, to Mr. Devereaux?

Mr. Main: To the Department of Environment.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega, I'm sorry.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The QEC could speak to three of them today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have three applications currently with the LCEF. They are all district heating projects. One is in Sanikiluaq, the other one is in Taloyoak, and the other one is in Hall Beach. Respectively they are around figures of approximately \$2.4 million, \$2.2 million, and approximately \$3.4 million. The cost split would be on a 75-25 percent basis, with the QEC picking up 25 percent of the costs. Those are the three under that program that we have applied for through the coordination with the Department of Environment, of course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Mr. Audla, you would like to add?

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we are working with the secretariat in accessing some of the \$31 million announced over four years to the GN where our project proposal is for the amount of \$8 million over four years towards retrofits and improvements on energy efficiency in the NHC's current stock. As of June of last year, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced, based on the low carbon economy fund as part of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, it was expected that the Government of Nunavut will receive the \$31 million over the four years.

In conjunction with the Climate Change Secretariat, we have put in targeted applications to the tune of about \$8 million for those funds for the next four-year period towards our replacement and retrofits of the NHC public housing stock. That's as far as it has gone to date so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This thing called the (interpretation ends) carbon tax (interpretation) that is going to be introduced by the federal government is going to raise the cost everything that we purchase from retailers. The cost of food and goods are going to go up in price. The Nunavut government and the federal government said that they were going to do a study on the effects of this (interpretation ends) carbon tax. (interpretation) Has a study been done and, if so, what were the findings and which communities were consulted for that study? That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The federal government has responded to these questions, but it will be a while before we know the tax issues. We're going to have to respond to their plans to do community consultations. They haven't identified which communities will be consulted and where public meetings will be held. I can say that this will be properly considered and planned. As for what you said, yes, everything that we purchase will rise in price and it's going to affect all our expenditures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That carbon tax that is going to be introduced by the federal government is going to make things difficult for all of us. We already pay the highest in everything when you look at all of Canada. Everything is more expensive in Nunavut than the rest of

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No specific timeline has been identified or no specific dates, but I do want to point out that the Department of Environment plays more of a supporting role. We will do our best to try to identify some of the priority areas if those are going to be taken into consideration, but as of the moment no target date has been identified for any planned consultations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. As this bill is before the Parliament right now and the potential impacts analysis has been completed as of last week from Yukon, and when I look at the pan-Canadian framework, it has the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy on page 77 of the pan-Canadian framework, yet you guys are just kind of getting started. I find that disheartening a little bit with the report that has come out from the Office of the Auditor General highlighting some of the deficiencies. I understand there are some capacity issues.

If Finance is the lead on that, what type of support have they requested of your department or any other departments or agencies to streamline this process? I know you're talking about doing community consultations, but when you're looking at the impact of cost, if you haven't even analyzed the impact, what are you going to these meetings to get consultations with? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Maybe I should have clarified that a little bit. I'm in consultations generally and not specifically with communities. In terms of the supporting role that the department and secretariat play, we are very much a reporting function interdepartmentally. We try to play an important policy discussion role within the territorial government on all matters of climate change. It's fairly wideranging and complex.

As you say, it is just starting. 2016 was the starting point in terms of the formalization of the formation of the secretariat. It has been a bit challenging given some of the capacity issues within the department. They have been able to have some limited success in certain areas and how we provide some of that advice going forward.

It's a difficult answer to try to provide, but the capacity issue certainly is one that hurts all of us. It's hard to produce a lot of these actions going forward without some of the resources in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. I know you say with regard to the carbon pricing, your department plays a supporting role to the Department of Finance. When we're talking about the strategies and actions concerning climate change specifically, just for the record, who is the lead department? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For carbon pricing, that would be the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry. Maybe I wasn't clear. The strategies and actions concerning climate change. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: For climate change, that's clearly the Department of Environment. That

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sits with us. As I mentioned, I'm trying to build a much wider team around that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague, Mr. Main, talked about from your opening comments the development of the Nunavut Clean Growth Working Group. The response from Mr. Devereaux said they're working on the Kivalliq and Baffin, and a subsequent date for the Kitikmeot. How late a date is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. Our proposed schedule on the continuation of those energy management projects, I would anticipate that we would undertake the feasibility study for the Kitikmeot in 2020-21. Subject to that feasibility study, typically the subsequent year thereafter we enter into the implementation phase. If I had to estimate a schedule, I would think that Kitikmeot would probably be in three to four years' time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is to the QEC corporation. What criteria were used to...? What's the best English word? (interpretation) What criteria were used to choose Sanikiluaq, Taloyoak, and Hall Beach?

Looking at the Kivalliq communities that have been affected by climate change, Arviat has been the most affected from what I have heard, and the community of Naujaat always has ice now.

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What criteria were used when choosing those three communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most notably, two of those communities have had district heating systems in the past. We had, for example, made a commitment to Sanikiluaq informally that we would look for funding to reintroduce the district heating system in that situation. It was a similar situation in Taloyoak. We had a system there that is no longer functioning for various reasons. We're looking at starting those systems up.

I would like to clarify additionally that we are not limiting our projects to those communities. We had a limited number of funds that we could apply for in this program, but our intention is to continue as funds become available or other models become available to try to deploy this to as many communities as possible. The other example probably most notable is the federal funding we received for the pool here in Iqaluit, as an example. We will continue to try to grow the district heating system. We think it's a valuable resource for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. I don't have any names right now. Just to get a clarification from Mr. Suvega, when I was talking earlier about the development of the climate change and adaptation strategy, I made reference to the report out of Yukon on the carbon pricing and the Yukon potential impact analysis. Where is the Government of Nunavut's status right now on our potential impact analysis report? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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We're just beginning to assess that interdepartmentally as we determine what steps to take going forward. It will be hard to nail down a specific timeline as we try to put together some of our detailed responses. I don't have a specific timeline in which we could provide that response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Again, I'm a little confused. Does the report exist right now? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: For us, no. As I mentioned, we're just in the beginning part of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. At this time we will take a 15-minute recess, returning with Findings, Recommendations, and Responses, Planning and preparing, paragraphs 17 through 49. 15 minutes. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:04 and resumed at 15:22

Chairman: Thanks. Welcome back, everyone. I hope everyone is a little bit healthier than they left after the health break. We will go right into Findings, Recommendations, and Responses, Planning and preparing, paragraphs 17 through 49. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions for the Auditor General's office. In paragraph 20 of your report, you indicated that your audit found that the Government of Nunavut "did not set a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions or publicly report on the implementation of both its adaptation and energy strategies." What specific reasons did the government provide to you for why it did not take these actions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of why didn't set a target or publicly report, really probably the Department of Environment would be the best to answer that.

I think that in the course of our audit, some different conversations came up about the need to be able to balance growth in the economy with trying to contain emissions. The fact that the territory is a small emitter in the Canadian scheme or in the international scheme, and I think we do also talk in the report about some of the obstacles to putting in place technology, the cost of some of that technology to be able to help reduce the impact of emissions. Those are just some different things that came up in the course of the conversation.

In terms of the actual specific reasons why they didn't have targets and why they weren't publicly reporting, I think that would be something that the Department of Environment could better answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did your audit examine the question of what a realistic and achievable greenhouse gas emission target for Nunavut would be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we didn't look at that question specifically because again that would be a policy decision of the government, what they wanted to have a target. Our point is, again

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given that Canada is a signatory to international agreements on trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in order for Canada to know as a country with all of the jurisdictions together what is supposed to happen and what needs to be done in order to meet Canada's international commitment, it would be important for each jurisdiction to have a target.

We aren't going to tell any jurisdiction what their target needs to be or how they need to set it, but we don't understand how Canada would be able to meet its international commitments if individual jurisdictions don't have their own target. That's why, in the course of the audit, we feel it's important for jurisdictions to have those targets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask this question to the Department of Environment, again on paragraph 20 where it states you "did not set a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions..." Does the Government of Nunavut have an official target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, if so, what is it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, there's no target that has been established to date. I think there's a lot of important interdepartmental policy work that still needs to take place before we ever get to determining what a target might look like.

Since taking responsibility for the secretariat, that's one of the key questions I have been asking in my head. Looking at our territory,

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C%GQ 48CJ&YL4QC we have no roads and we have pretty much a fixed transportation system up here where we're dependent on air transportation and the sealift. Certainly a lot of interdepartmental policy discussions will have to take place taking those kind of things and factors into consideration as we try to determine: do we set a target and what would that target look like? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize it can be a complicated process in order to set targets. Does the government have any idea of when they will be able to be at a point where they can set a target for emissions? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a GN-wide answer that I could provide today or have even a forecast of when we might be able to be ready. There are a lot of factors, again, to take into consideration and some of the important interdepartmental policy discussion that needs to takes place as well, at the same time, being able to consult widely and openly with constituents to ensure that they're aware of any potential policy discussions that might be taking place that could impact them in the future and what they might think about it as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Thank you for those questions, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My questions will be directed to Community and Government Services.

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Paragraph 46 of the Auditor General's report....

An Hon. Member: There's no translation.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My questions will be directed to Community and Government Services.

Paragraph 46 of the Auditor General's report indicates that the Department of Community and Government Services "conducted a terrain mapping project to inform community planning and help identify areas unsuitable for development." And "...identified areas at risk of instability due to changes in permafrost and other hazards..." Maps were produced for Arviat, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, and Pangnirtung. Are these maps accessible to the general public? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Ferguson. Sorry. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. We have undertaken some studies in the past few years to examine permafrost degradation in the communities that the Member referenced. The result output of that undertaking was to provide a base map within those communities depicting areas where some of those hazards existed.

Those maps are readily available. We have provided them to hamlets. I know I have been to a few hamlet councils and seen the maps on the walls and showed areas where it was higher risk. It was designed to be a pilot project to examine for any future developments for those developers to see

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areas that they might want to take into consideration to avoid due to risk of permafrost degradation. That information is available.

We hope that in the future we might be able to continue with that work to examine highrisk areas within communities we build relative to permafrost degradation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. I'm wondering if maybe those maps could be provided to the Committee so that we can take a look at them ourselves after. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. There are seven communities that have been mapped. What percentage of land in one community, for example, is now considered unsuitable for infrastructure development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member. The percentage of areas identified would be difficult for me to express today. It varies across those communities. In a typical map, you would see the base map of the community within the municipal boundaries and you would see a variety of areas mapped out in different colours. Red would be the highest risk and yellow would be a lower risk.

If there was vacant land with the potential for development within those areas, it's baseline information for the builder to consider in terms of selection of that particular site. The percentage certainly would vary, but we can share that information with Members so you Δυς Δράς Α[†] Αυτουρία Αυτου

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could see a visual depiction of the higher risk areas within the various communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My question is for the same department. Looking at the government as a whole and if the communities that weren't part of the mapping project were involved at some point, how long do you think it will take to produce those maps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member. I don't have a schedule to share with you today. I think, as we have funding available for this type of examination, that we have certainly seen the benefit in the seven communities that we did do that we want to consider doing additional communities in the course of the next few years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's understandable. I would now like to direct my question to the Department of Environment.

Paragraph 45 of the Auditor General's report indicates that "An assessment of climate change risks to Nunavut's mining sector, including to infrastructure such as access roads, airstrips, and tailings (mining waste) facilities, was produced for the Department of Environment and other organizations." I would like to know which organization conducted this assessment. Thank you, Mr.

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my colleague, Sara Holzman, to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Holzman.

Ms. Holzman: Thanks for your question. That was a project that was done in partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The results of those reports are on our website, so they are available to the public. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. What were the main conclusions of the assessment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Holzman.

Ms. Holzman: Thank you for the question. There are climate change impacts for those specific areas and they made recommendations for how to adapt those mining practices to better incorporate climate change adaptation into the future practices. I'm not aware with those specific mining projects whether or not they have incorporated those suggestions, but the recommendations were made.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is again to the same department. You indicated that it is now on your department's website. I'm

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assuming the assessment is publicly available now, but you probably know that the public doesn't have access to computers. Are there any reports or anything available in Inuktitut for the public other than the website? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the components I wanted to be updated was how the secretariat communicates to the public as well, not just through the website or the reports but also how it engages communities because again, as the Member points out, not everyone has access to the Internet. We want to ensure that the public has adequate access to all the materials publicly.

Certainly we want to try to update all the tools like a website and social media aspects, but also ensure that if we know or are aware of any tools in the communities, such as existing government offices, our conservation officers, and certainly the GLOs, those can also be a vehicle for the public to access a lot of the public documents in government in any official language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. I would like to just take a step back to follow up on one of Mr. Mikkungwak's questions to the representative for Community and Government Services. When we're looking at the terrain mapping and informing us of the value of it for building and for the municipalities, you had mentioned that future projects will depend on funding. What was the approximate cost of doing the seven mapped communities? Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question. I don't have that information available, but certainly we can

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provide that to the Members in due course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe Ms. Holzman had a comment to make on that. Ms. Holzman.

Ms. Holzman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our Climate Change Secretariat was involved with CGS in the mapping project. I can say that for one community for one year of map work was about \$25,000. We did four years of mapping in each of the seven communities, so that gives you an idea of how much it would cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my question to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

Paragraph 28 of your report indicates that your audit found that "In 2014, the Department of Environment...produced a five-year draft action plan" concerning its climate change framework, but "the draft action plan was never finalized." My question for the Auditor General of Canada is: what specific reasons did the Nunavut government provide to you for why it did not finalize this action plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that question. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I think the Department of Environment could probably give you an answer directly as to why they haven't finalized that.

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I think what I want to say is unfortunately this idea of having action plans or strategies or implementation plans or policies and procedures even sometimes only at a draft level and staying at a draft level is something that we see in a lot of different audits that we do in a lot of different areas, and not just here in Nunavut but in the other territories and in fact at the federal level as well.

I think there's a broader message in all of this for all departments that if you are working on things and you've only gotten them to a draft stage after working on them for a certain period of time, it's important to get them accepted and put in place as actual adopted strategies.

Again, the actual reason why it was never finalized, I don't have that reason for you, but perhaps the department could comment on that itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Paragraph 31 of the Auditor General's report indicates that his audit found that the government had produced a detailed draft implementation plan for its energy strategy in the year 2010, but that this plan "was never finalized." What specific reasons did the Nunavut government provide to you for why it did not finalize this plan? It states in paragraph 31 that it was not finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Specifically in paragraph 31 we do say that "...the Secretariat produced a detailed draft plan, which included descriptions of how policy actions would be implemented,

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timelines, deliverables, and responsibilities; however, the plan was never finalized." Again, it looked like they had taken the plan to a certain level but never actually finalized it. Again, it's the same answer. I don't have the specific reasons, but again perhaps the department could provide those specific reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question, paragraph 35 of your report indicates that your audit "noted differences between Nunavut's estimated greenhouse gas emissions and those in Environment and Climate Change Canada's 2017 national greenhouse gas emissions inventory." Can you describe how far apart the two sets of estimates were and did your audit attempt to determine which set of estimates was accurate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was something that we noted in trying to understand Nunavut's greenhouse gas emissions. We looked at the territory's own estimate of its greenhouse gas emissions and then we looked at what Environment and Climate Change Canada had in the national greenhouse gas emission inventory. We found a number of discrepancies, I suppose, a number of differences.

In general I can say that, as I understand it, the estimate that was prepared by Nunavut was lower than the estimate that
Environment and Climate Change Canada had. Really, I think, at this point, it is important for the Department of
Environment and the secretariat, perhaps, to work with Environment and Climate Change

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Canada to make sure there is one way of measuring emissions.

We noticed that there were significant differences in how Environment and Climate Change Canada looked at sectors and how many emissions were coming from different sectors than what the territory did. Environment and Climate Change Canada and their numbers seemed to have zero emissions from housing. There were a number of different places where there were discrepancies and the discrepancies were hard to make sense of. That's really why I think that detailed level of work needs to be done by the department in conjunction with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The other thing that I can say is this isn't the only place where we noticed that discrepancy. We noticed that there was a similar discrepancy in Yukon's numbers for its emissions compared to what Environment and Climate Change Canada had for Yukon.

Again, I think it's something that the territory and the federal government department need to work together to get to one common way of settling on how to measure Nunavut's greenhouse gas emissions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are for the Department of Environment.

Paragraph 34 of the Auditor General's report indicates that "A report on energy use and greenhouse gas emission trends in the territory was produced for the [Climate Change] Secretariat in early 2017." Will this report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that once we have adequately reviewed the report and prepared it for public consumption, then we would be pleased to table the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Would you be able to provide us with an estimate on, or would you let us know how close you are to completion and, if possible, an estimated completion date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would tentatively aim for perhaps the fall sitting to allow departments that time to have some of those interdepartmental discussions and reviews with the information before it's publicly released. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut's framework for climate change adaption initiatives was released in the year 2011 and its Energy Strategy, *Ikummatiit*, was released in the year 2007, which was over a decade ago. What is the government's timetable for upgrading these strategies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's difficult to pin a target date on both of these documents. It's clear that there's a lot of interdepartmental work that needs to take place, and it's also clear that all of these documents need to be updated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just following up with Ms. Towtongie's question on the discrepancy in greenhouse gas emissions in the territory, has the issue been resolved, and what is the status of the government's work to improve emission rates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of that is ongoing work and will actually feed into how these documents are going to be updated as well. In terms of pinning target dates and when will these be publicly released, we're also trying to be respectful of the budget development process. A lot of these need to be vetted and ensure that we adequately plan as departments and agencies through the budget development process for a lot of these actions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. During the Second Legislative Assembly, the government of the day introduced proposed new energy efficiency legislation on two separate occasions. The stated purpose of one of the bills was to "promote and assist in the reduction of fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency in Nunavut...[through] prohibiting the sale or lease of energy devices in Nunavut that do not meet certain efficiency standards." Unfortunately both bills died on the order paper when the Assembly dissolved. Is the government currently considering introducing similar legislation during its term of office and, if so, what is the timetable for its introduction?

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't speak to any kind of future legislative initiatives. I think a lot of the work we have to organize will be dependent on the formation of future strategies, implementation plans, and action plans and of course having all of these vetted through the budget development process as well.

I think, having said that, a lot of departments and agencies have been able to move forward in trying to achieve things like energy efficiency. There are lots of great examples in CGS, Housing, and the QEC that we can generally speak to, but in terms of any specific legislative initiatives, I can't speak to any of those today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Wouldn't those pieces of legislation come from your department? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: They would, Mr. Chairman, but again, a lot of that would depend on some of our interdepartmental collaboration and some of those policy discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To follow up on that question, I believe it's our responsibility to ensure that the government moves in the right direction. When it comes to regulation on prohibition of the sale of non-efficient appliances and whatnot in the private sector, I think the department should take the lead and begin working in collaboration with Justice on creating such legislation.

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As we stand now, the private sector seems to me to be selling the cheapest appliances possible at the greatest profit where these appliances tend to be inefficient, low quality, don't last very long, and end up in our dumps. I believe that the government needs to step up in this area and ensure that all appliances being brought into our territory and sold in our territory do meet efficiency standards as well as quality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Agreed. I wanted to point out that the government has recently become a member of the ENERGY STAR initiative and have access to new resources and opportunities in the future. I'm completely in agreement with that statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I would just like to follow up on one of Mr. Lightstone's comments regarding the carbon emission calculations. Maybe Mr. Suvega, can you clarify why the GN's carbon emissions calculations differ so much from federal calculations, and how are the two governments working together to resolve this discrepancy? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be difficult to speak to why some of those differences came about, but I can mention that our staff are actively working with the environment and climate change department at the working level to try to update and ensure that the numbers that they are using are consistent and are being applied in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It goes to me when we're looking at setting carbon emission targets and with working with calculations that don't seem to match, how are we even supposed to get started on like a carbon tax if

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it were to be enacted on the timetable that the federal government is looking at? What do we even base our targets at? Do you have a time frame of when some of those numbers are going to be clarified? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would hope that by this summer a lot of those figures are clarified, but again, it would also depend on some of the interdepartmental collaboration and also some of the work that happens at the working levels at various federal, provincial and territorial tables as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) My question is for the Department of Environment. They had responded to the Auditor General's report on page 8. You would work with foundational projects. Can you explain what projects you have done in regard to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond to the question on foundational projects at this time, but it's evident that we're now monitoring the communities to see what stage they're at with respect to their lands and ice conditions and what kind of work can be done. These are just examples I'm using. I can't tell you exactly where we're at today, but we want to work closely with the departments and agencies on how we can prepare and plan for this in the future. It's evident that we need to update our goals, foundation, and budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

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

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Chairman. I also thank you for explaining it in your response. In the report it states that the Department of Environment lacks capacity. When there's a lot of work to be done and there's not enough staff, did the Department of Environment request or have they considered increasing the number of person years in regard to climate change? What is your department doing to hire and fill those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's clear we need to review it. When I first became the Deputy Minister, we lacked capacity and we're trying to come up with new positions. It's impossible to kind of fill them. At the same time I do want to review this carefully within the Department of Environment. It will have an impact with other departments when we start looking at the budget. It does not impact just our department, but it will also have an impact on other departments, such as Community and Government Services, the energy corporation, and the housing corporation.

We will have to work very closely together and to find out what kinds of projects will be needed and which positions will continue to be difficult to fill. We do look for other sources of funding outside of the GN. When the federal government comes up with funding, we will try to access them. We have to work closely together and we cannot do this on our own. If we're going to make amendments or changes, we will have to work closely together at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a couple of follow-up questions for the

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Chairman: Thank you. Good question, Mr. Main. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. McKenzie to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. McKenzie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were conducting the audit, we were informed that the maps were used by community planners at the local level to assist them in developing community plans. It was part of the Department of Community and Government Services' responsibilities, if you will, to assist local planning and community planning efforts. At least based on the discussions that we had with officials who were involved in the project, at least in terms of helping inform some of those decisions, it was being used to inform the planning process.

Maybe if I could just note as well, we have also noted that the plans could also be used for identifying if there are existing facilities that may be in some of these zones that are unsuitable. We did encourage the departments to not only use these to help

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inform planning purposes, but it could also help inform some of their maintenance and assessment work in terms of existing facilities, some of which may be in some of these zones. I just wanted to mention that as well.

They could almost serve dual purposes, one in terms of future planning, but also because they were done at a certain date and the communities were already developed, they could also be used to help inform other parts of the departments, if you will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that response. I guess I'll turn to CG&S in terms of trying to understand this a bit better. The seven communities that were chosen for this permafrost terrain mapping, are these the communities they determined to be the most high risk in terms of degradation due to permafrost, or how were those communities chosen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. I don't have a lot of additional information to share in terms of the rationale behind the seven communities. I think it was based upon some historical information that these particular ones, compared to all the other ones, would be ones we would focus on first. I don't have a lot of great detail in terms of how we went about prioritizing these seven. I think we examined it from the perspective of we thought this project initiative was very strong and we would tackle these seven. If it does serve well, we would continue on. I think it is our hope to expand this over the course of

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the next couple years and target additional communities.

It's valuable information for us in terms of planning new construction. It's valuable information for municipalities when they're contemplating where to expand future development in terms of the types of development. In terms of buildings, I would also just note that when we do go through site selection, we often go into communities and look for available sites. When we target those sites deemed upon the type of infrastructure we're building, we go in and do extensive geotechnical investigations and environmental investigations. We would gather some of the data that's presented in these terrain maps as well when we undertook site investigations.

What the map does is it gives a clear picture at the very front end of a planning process on areas that you have been deemed, through four years of data collection, to be of higher risk. It's important information. It's certainly not all the information we gather when we're making decisions on where to build. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With climate change, it's always going to be considered now in CGS' decisions to build infrastructure. Now that climate change is always going to be considered, will this cause things to become more expensive to build or is it already costing more to build things because of climate change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. I certainly cannot here today quantify for you

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an incremental cost associated with climate change.

As a large builder, we undertake investigations on most suitable sites. There's a whole variety of factors that come into that; the availability of sites, the terrain on the sites, and the drainage on the sites. I think it's fair to say for us in Nunavut where we are in an environment of permafrost and we have varying degrees of active layers. We recognize that's changing due to weather conditions and climate change. The risk is there over time as that active layer changes and the buildings we build above it change in that regard.

There is a cost impact. I can't quantify it for you. When we are building new facilities in 2018-2019, we don't carry any significant cost associated with climate change. We just factor that information as a course of best practice in terms of how we design and construct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a final follow-up with CGS. Every community is different. I look at two communities I represent, for example. Arviat, very low lying, hardly any bedrock exposure; Whale Cove, quite a lot of bedrock and different terrain. From a Nunavut-wide perspective, which communities are at the most risk in terms of the terrain degradation? Is it the ones with the lack of bedrock, for example? Is it the ones the ones that are in the southern part of Nunavut, just from a Nunavut-wide perspective? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member. I don't have that information to share here today. I think it's a

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good question. My sense is that some of that information is available and could be gathered in terms of a Nunavut lens on where some of the more high-risk zones are, but I don't have that information today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask questions to the QEC official in light of the carbon tax that will be imposed by the federal government upon the people of Canada and Nunavut will be the most hit. I was wondering if the QEC has any idea on how much tonnage of greenhouse gas emissions that our generators emit into the atmosphere. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We emit approximately 150 kilotonnes every year and that's based on the consumption of diesel, which is just over 50 million, approaching 55 million litres a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask my next question to the president of the housing corporation. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has the highest number of housing units in the territory and we have to use boilers or furnaces to heat them. I would like to ask the same question to the housing corporation that I just asked to the energy corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

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

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Chairman. Thank you for the question. I don't have the figures in front of me as to how much fuel consumption there is right now with our units, but I can look into it and provide that information to the Committee.

(interpretation ends) From what I hear based on the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change, I think it's zero emissions that we suggested. In what we're doing here, I will get back to the Committee on the actual figures. I'm not sure whether or not we keep quantum of actual fuel consumption for heating purposes, but I'll find out and get back to the Committee on that.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. I'm sure your officials are listening diligently to the proceedings here today and if possible, if it's not too onerous for your officials to put that information together for tomorrow. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking the question on how much greenhouse gas emissions these public housing units emit into our skies up north. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla, do you want to just elaborate?

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In order to make that determination, we need to look at the amount of fuel consumed per household and based on that we would be able to have a better determination as to actual emissions based on the amount of fuel burned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It looks like Mr. Suvega may have a partial response to your question. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not specific to housing, but in terms of what is fed into kind of a national registry that we work with Environment and Climate Change Canada on. There are four main data sources: Petroleum Products Division sales database, the Qulliq Energy electricity sales database, the Uqsuq Corporation's sales data, and Kitnuna Corporation's sales data. The last update provided on all Canadian jurisdictions was on April 12, 2018. For Nunavut it was found with those four data sources, we produce approximately 700 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year and this number is rising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We will need this information that we have to argue against the federal government imposing this carbon tax. By the way, I have been reading a bit on the CO2 emissions. This carbon tax that we are trying to suppress apparently gives life to the entire planet and it gives life to us, and it's something that we're trying to impose a tax on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'll take that as just a comment. Were you looking for a response from any of the officials, Mr. Netser?

Mr. Netser: No, I just wanted to advise them to be kind to the carbon emissions that produce life on earth. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my question to the Department of Environment. Paragraph 47 of the Auditor General's report indicates that a recently completed desktop

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risk assessment of primary sources of drinking water in Nunavut's communities identified six communities at "high risk of water scarcity between 2016 and 2040...Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Taloyoak." What specific actions is the Nunavut government taking to address this risk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. I know there has been a lot of recent coverage of how Iqaluit is in that same scenario. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the government has begun looking into that, not just the Department of Environment but other departments as well, including Community and Government Services. We're trying to see how much money we will need to request from the government to make adaptations when we're trying to figure out what we're going to do with drinking water. I know we will have to collaborate with several other departments to solve this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux, would you like to supplement that response?

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. Our department continues to work with our municipal partners in the early planning for water issues for the communities identified in that report that were at risk throughout the next 20 years. As we work through that, we would bring forward through the capital planning process requests for capital funds as deemed for that planning exercise. The work is well on its way.

I think, in the past, we have spent efforts and resources, examining communities with high-priority water source issues and have CΔ°d ΔLΔ° ΔΓ°CΡ°6°C°D°

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successfully addressed them over the last 5, 10, or 20 years and we will continue to do so. This study certainly provided us with a benchmark in the next 20 years on which communities need the most attention in terms of planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Environment's response to the Auditor General's recommendation concerning the identification and ranking of climate change risks and hazards to Nunavut indicates that it would be hosting a "pan-Northern meeting in March 2018 on permafrost hazard mapping." What were the results of this meeting, and when will a report from the meeting be publicly released? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The meeting was held recently and the report will be completed at a later date. Once the report is complete, it will be posted online so that the entire Arctic will be able to read it and will be available at www.northernadaptation.ca. We're still not sure when it will be completed, but it will be published for the communities and translated into Inuktitut as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Just to clarify for my own tracking, Ms. Towtongie, was that the one on the permafrost mapping? Was that the question you had asked? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was the ranking of climate change risk and hazards to Nunavut. Concerning the

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I have another question. Okay. Thank you. The Department of Environment's response to the Auditor General's recommendation concerning the identification and ranking of climate change risks and hazards to Nunavut also indicated that "Additional work is scheduled to begin the development of climate change risk mitigation criteria for decision makers." What is the timeline for the completion of this work and what specific criteria are being developed? That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of what guidelines or criteria are being developed, I can kind of generally speak to them. It will be looking at things like panterritorial to see how governments like the Government of Yukon and the NWT are assessing risks from climate change, reviewing literature on the Inuit perspective of risk, and discussing with various federal departments that collect climate data and on data on what is available in Nunavut.

In terms of when that might be available, it would be hard to kind of pinpoint that down. In my earlier response, I also said I want to ensure that how we communicate is also publicly available widely, not just on things like the Internet but on all available platforms and also utilizing existing resources on the ground, especially in communities, whether that be through, just as an example, our conservation officers or GLOs or other partners like hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have a question to the Department of Environment.

The Government of Nunavut's framework for climate change adaptation initiatives was released in the year 2011 and the energy corporation released its energy strategy, *Ikummatiit*, in the year 2007, many years ago. Those documents need to be updated. What is the government's timetable for updating these strategies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's unfortunate we can't immediately identify when those strategies will be updated, but it's clear that Ikummatiit needs to be updated. We don't want to restart everything all at once, but we would like to utilize those resources that are already there and also apply them in the future. This could help us to move forward quicker. However, we need to work with other territorial governments, communities, Inuit organizations, and other agencies that we partner with, such as the Government of Canada. As we work together and move forward, we can hold discussions to develop, with your help, and move forward together with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): I have some questions dealing with the proposed policy. We aren't sure how much the Arctic is affected from that policy. I would appreciate receiving an update on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the effects it has within the Arctic, when we meet regarding those issues, we have been involved in addressing those issues. We have been involved in listening to discussions that we learn that are taking place in our territory, in Canada, and internationally on the policies that are being developed for the Arctic. We look closely at these policies in order to determine if they will impact us or be in conflict or if they will present challenges. We are taking these issues seriously in order to come up with actions and see what else may have to be added for our future programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On January 3, 2018 the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations announced that her department will provide \$1.7 million to the Government of Nunavut between 2017 and 2021 to "implement climate adaptation actions" under the federal Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program. With this funding, I believe there were tasks specifically made for those funds. Will the results of that be reported to the Legislative Assembly and, if so, when? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you specify which letters you're talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

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Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. The federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations set aside some funding for the Nunavut government in the amount of \$1.7 million between 2017 and 2021 to "implement climate adaption actions" under the federal Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program. What specific projects will be undertaken with this funding and how will their results be reported to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does that clarify it, Mr. Suvega?

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarity I will respond in English. The \$1.7 million the Member is referring to is funding that we had received from the federal government for climate change adaptation projects. The projects under this program include:

- Developing a youth advisory committee on climate change;
- Assessing permafrost thaw in Kugluk Territorial Park and relocating the ATV trail to a more suitable location within Nunavut parks and special places;
- Monitoring sea ice through the community-based monitoring SmartICE program with Economic Development and Transportation; and
- Hosting a pan-northern meeting to share information around permafrost hazard mapping.

We did allude to some of these today and we hope to try to target the fall for a bulk of much of the reporting on these activities. Some of them are still kind of in progress. I think, once those are completed, we hope to produce a majority of these reports publicly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I would just like to

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follow up on Mr. Mikkungwak's question. When you're talking about different funds that the federal government has announced, when I look at Budget 2017 from the Investing in Canada plan in green infrastructure, I've got like 15 different funds that are programs that I can see in there.

How do you work on targeting to make sure that you're maximizing the impact of all programs that are available, and how do you choose which project is going to be applied to which program? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, our department and the secretariat try to play a coordinating role. We don't necessarily play the deciding role on targeting, "Well, department A, you're going to target this fund." For the most part, we try to maximize our resources and depending on what activities might be available during this time and the partners that might be available during that time.

I can say that as departments we are getting a lot better at talking to each other in terms of what funding pots we're starting to access. Unfortunately sometimes we kind of find out after the fact that other departments or partners have accessed funding pots that are not necessarily similar to our project activities but that could feed into our project activities.

The best response I could provide at the moment is we're getting better at coordinating. We don't necessarily play a deciding role, but that is part of the interdepartmental work that we would like to try to organize a little bit better, especially through some of our policy forums to organize how the government can better access federal funding as well as funding we get through our budget development process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. That's exactly why I'm leading into this line of questioning. When you've got criteria of different federal program dollars that are available, we have heard numerous times today and we have heard numerous times in the past that a lot of departments are dealing with capacity issues, especially in your policies and policy shops.

How are these programs identified and how are they promoted to other government agencies and departments to...? Housing as an example, the CMHC has announced a couple of years ago over \$500 million for energy retrofit projects. How are those types of programs spread across and communicated to different government departments and agencies?

I know the Policy Officials Committee probably plays a small role in that, but there must be some established communication protocol and, if not, why not, to make sure...? Typically as Members and as a government, we're always trying to make sure that we're accessing the most dollars available to better Nunavummiut and better the territory, especially with infrastructure. I find too often we're leaving money on the table.

What is the Climate Change Secretariat's role into making sure that we're accessing all the green dollars that are available for the Government of Nunavut? Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a few different ways to approach that response.

For the most part, with the federal programs that we do know about, a bulk of those programs are communicated formally through the different forums such as the Deputy Ministers' Committee, the Policy

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Officials Committee, and those are communicated to departments and agencies. Those aren't necessarily difficult to try to coordinate. It's ones that we kind of find out about through word of mouth or by accident. There are so many federal programs and funds that are accessed that it's difficult to coordinate something when you find out about it after the fact.

For the most part, I think departments and agencies are getting better at coordinating their activities and how they access the funding, not just to access the funding but also to complement their programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. I'll leave that alone for now and go to the next name on my list. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are towards Environment and they're along the lines of workshops or training.

On February 3, 2017 the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced that they had hosted a three-day workshop on the issue of climate change. The announcement indicated that "Results from the meetings will directly support Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in developing a Northern Adaptation Strategy..." What did this workshop accomplish and when will the final report from the event be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any report that we hope to produce will have to be vetted through, again, a lot of our interdepartmental policy discussions and also with partners such as Inuit organizations.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Paragraph 48 of the Auditor General's report indicates that the Department of Environment "provided training to government officials on climate change." The department's 2017-18 business plan indicates that one of its goals has been to "Expand the delivery of the Climate Change Adaptation Training Course to additional users beyond GN departments." As of today, how many individuals have taken this course? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask my colleague to respond to that question, but before she does, I also wanted an opportunity for the staff to speak about all the different initiatives that they're undertaking interdepartmentally but also within our communities. I would like to ask Sara, with your permission, to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Holzman.

Ms. Holzman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that question. We have offered the climate change training course over four years to around 80 or so Government of Nunavut employees. Each time we have offered the course, we have also extended invitations to various partners with the City of Iqaluit, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated,

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and I believe a staff from the QIA as well in the past. It's something we plan on expanding more to offer the course to other partners.

Right now the course is climate change adaptation – all sectors and something we're thinking about is the idea of maybe focusing on specific sectors, so doing a course just for infrastructure staff or just for health staff. This is something we're currently looking into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How long does the course take to complete and what are its primary elements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Holzman.

Ms. Holzman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. The course originally was developed as a two-day training course. However, we realized that with very busy schedules of Government of Nunavut staff, it's hard to take the time to take a two-day course. This past year that we offered it, we have actually tailored it into a one-day course and developed some material for the participants to review in advance so that we could shorten the course. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: I just have a two-part question left. Who teaches the course and in which communities has the course been offered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Holzman.

Ms. Holzman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the course is being taught by an educational professional with Yukon

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College. This individual has developed a similar course for Yukon College and for Yukon government officials. They actually developed the course for us. This is an example of one of the pan-territorial collaborative efforts that we have done and we look at other northern jurisdictions and see some of what they're doing and tailor it for Nunavut. That individual is teaching the course here and at some point we would like to be able to have the capacity within the Climate Change Secretariat to teach it ourselves.

Your second question was around which communities the course has been offered. So far it has just been here. However, we received GN training funding to bring GN employees from other communities. Last year we had GN staff from Pond Inlet and Rankin Inlet attending the course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Akoak, are you done? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to go back to paragraph 46 regarding the terrain mapping project. Pagnirtung is listed as one of the communities where the project was done. Perhaps I misunderstood when I heard that it was a four-year project. I don't know whether it's part of the training program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was stated earlier that this was a three- or four-year project. I don't know if they worked on the project in Pangnirtung for three or four years. However, the overall time for the communities listed for the project was three or four years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Paragraph 46 indicates that there was a terrain mapping project. Even though those communities have been completed, will there be any follow-up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe that was done through Community and Government Services. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. The particular engagement to undertake the terrain mapping in those selected communities has been completed. It provides baseline information for community planners or builders in those communities in terms of making decisions on both future development within the municipal boundaries but also in terms of site selection.

Right now, with that engagement, there is no requirement for further follow-up or further data collection in terms of the maps. Those maps will be available to both the community as well as developers in the future and may get updated at some point down the road. I think our focus will be on examining and gathering of similar information in the communities that weren't completed as part of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll move on to another subject. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment's response to the Auditor General's recommendation concerning the identification and ranking of climate change risks and hazards to Nunavut indicates that it would be hosting a "pan-northern meeting in March 2018 on permafrost hazard mapping."

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What were the results of the meeting, and when will the report from the meeting be publicly released? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. That question was answered, but Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Although it was recently concluded, we would like to try to aim for sometime in the fall to publicly release a report. It will allow us the time to discuss it with our interdepartmental colleagues but as well as partners that participated in the conference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I guess you succeeded in getting a little bit more of a firmer commitment than your predecessor.

>>Laughter

Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I am finished. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day. The Member for Rankin Inlet, Cathy, probably mentioned it regarding drinking water in the six communities in Nunavut. Considering the number of communities, my question is directed to Community and Government Services. What specific actions are being taken to address the water issue in those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for the question. Our department works with municipalities in

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terms of municipal infrastructure needs, and water source obviously being a very important one. As part of this exercise, it really was to identify communities in the 20-year horizon that were deemed to be at the highest risk in terms of available water based upon population growth models and also based upon climate change.

We will work with those six communities over the course of the next number of years to continue to examine that risk and to come up with options to satisfy the water source needs of those communities, modelled after population growth and the risks around climate change. It would be a similar process that we undertake with our municipal partners when we identify municipal infrastructure need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Wasn't Grise Fiord part of a large water concern recently as well? Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my knowledge, as part of this particular study on the risks associated with that engagement, I don't see Grise Fiord being identified on that. I'll have to get back to the Member in terms of another particular issue that was potentially discovered in the recent past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We look forward to that follow-up. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear how many communities have boil water advisories. Do you have that information available? Thank you.

Chairman: That would be more the Department of Health, but I'm sure Mr. Devereaux probably has those facts fairly at

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Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for that question. I don't have at my fingertips the exact number of communities with current boil water advisories. I don't believe it's a big number, if any at all, but certainly we can get back to the Member as soon as tomorrow morning with the exact number of communities as of today that have boil water advisories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): I appreciate that you will get back to me.

I will now move on, as we're jumping to different parts of the report. Paragraph 50 of the Auditor General's report mentions Community and Government Services, the housing corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Regarding permafrost melt and knowing that the housing corporation is now constructing apartment buildings, which of the three entities would take the lead on that? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'll allow this question, but right now we're doing up to paragraph 49. I believe it was directed to Environment. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to making headway on capital issues such as generating energy, we can't say today that the Department of Environment will delegate who will do what, whether it be the housing corporation or the QEC. We will just be making suggestions and consulting with them in order to identify budgets and projects such as to decide to procure solar panels or for making upgrades

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to houses to reduce heating needs. We rarely make initiatives, but we are responsible for leading the Department of Environment with respect to capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I made a mistake. I'll have a question once we get to the appropriate paragraph. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll follow up on my colleague's question for CGS regarding the drinking water study, the desktop risk assessment. I just wanted to clarify: did that risk assessment include things like coliforms in the water source that could be encountered? My rudimentary understanding is that those things can be associated with shifts in temperature. If a drinking water source becomes warmer, there could be an increased risk of certain bacteria. That's my question. Was that included in the risk assessment or was it just looking at the quantity of the water? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Excellent question. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for that question. I'll have to get back to the Member specifically on the details of that scope.

I know that the study did examine the availability of the watershed based upon model population growths as well as just taking into consideration any particular risks that may be identified to that water source relative to climate change. As we're

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experiencing climate change activities around the areas where the watershed is, could those activities have a negative impact on the safe provision of that water?

To the specific example that you have asked, I would have to get back to you and we will endeavour to do that very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for getting back to me on that.

Maybe I should have asked this question when we were getting started, but for the Auditor General, I'm interested to hear in terms of this collaborative report, which involved folks from all across the country. It mentions the very first statement on the message from the Auditor General. It says, "Climate change has been identified as one of the defining challenges of our time." I was looking through the report and it says nothing as to the source of climate change.

My question is: in terms of the conversation across Canada, is there any evidence of certain jurisdictions maybe not buying into the idea that climate change is real? I bring this up because there are all kinds of fake news out there. There are all kinds of sources of fake information. Is this part of what is happening across Canada, that climate change denier phenomenon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not something that I can specifically comment on. What the report shows is that if you piece things together, some jurisdictions are better prepared to adapt to climate change than others. Some have targets about

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emissions and others don't. All of the jurisdictions are at different stages. The reason why some are ahead and some are behind, whether it's a philosophical reason or it's a capacity reason or just sort of the amount of work they have to do, I don't know those specific reasons, but certainly the report showed that jurisdictions are at very different stages.

In the back of the report there is a chart on page 35 of that report that essentially shows that even with the projected emissions with actions that are under development but not yet implemented, Canada is not yet on a path and would not even then be on a path to meet the Paris target. I think that shows there's a lot of work to be done. That graph also shows that Canada set a target. There was a target that was originally to be hit in 2000 which is called the Rio target, another one to be hit somewhere around 2012 for the Kyoto target, and another one for the Copenhagen target in 2020. It looks like either none of those targets were met or will be met.

In fact even with all the measures that are in place or planned so far, Canada won't meet its Paris target. It's hard to say what the reasons are behind that, but I think Canada does not have a particularly good history on meeting its targets on climate change. It looks like as of right now there's more to be done if Canada is going to meet its 2030 target. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. Thank you for the response. I guess I'll turn to the Department of Environment. Does the Department of Environment have a position as to the source of climate change? I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short no, but I think that a lot of the work that we do in the department is also supported interdepartmentally and with a lot of partners. It's hard to say there's one source that is the cause of climate change, but certainly our approach going forward is going to be how we deal with it, how we mitigate climate change, and how we adapt to it. We will do it with partners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'm not trying to get us off on a tangent here, but after a certain point I personally feel that the whole discussion of the source of climate change is beside the point. At this point it's happening in Nunavut and we need to adapt to it.

Being opportunistic, I think, in terms of the federal funding pots that are available and tied to climate change, it's in Nunavut's favour to be aggressive in terms of climate change adaptation. In terms of those different funding pots that the Chairman mentioned earlier, approximately how many different applications are in from Nunavut in terms of tapping into federal dollars? I'm directing it to Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five certainly that we're aware of today and there's likely going to be more as we become better at talking to each other. Sometimes these are dependent on some of our partners, not just the Department of Environment but some of the partners that our colleagues have as well and sometimes those are outside of government. That's

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. I was hoping to get this section done before the day's end, but I still have a couple of names on my list. In recognizing the clock, we're scheduled to go 'til five o'clock today, so we will end today. Mr. Netser will be first in line for questions tomorrow morning. At this time I'll adjourn for the day and we will see everyone here same time, same channel at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thank you, everyone.

>>Committee adjourned at 17:02

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