

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, October 29, 2018

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members. Nunavummiut listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

We will now proceed to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 088 – 5(2): Canada's Premiers' Summer Meeting 2018

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about my participation at Canada's premiers' summer meeting that was hosted in beautiful Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, this past July 19 and 20.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of the Federation, known as COF, was established in 2003 and is governed by a founding agreement that includes all 13 territories' and provinces' premiers. These meetings allow Canada's premiers an opportunity to discuss mutual concerns and interests with their jurisdictions and nationally.

Council of the Federation enables premiers to work collaboratively, form closer ties, foster constructive relationships between governments, and show leadership on important issues that matter to Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, this year our discussions centred on economic growth, health care, indigenous rights, and internal and international trade.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of the Federation allows us a unique opportunity to showcase Nunavut's strengths and opportunities and highlights some of the challenges facing our territory. I will continue to promote our culture, enhance our strategies and vision, and safeguard our strong relationships at events like this.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has called a First Ministers' Meeting on internal trade, set for early December of 2018. I look forward to updating the Members of Assembly on that meeting during the winter session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 089 – 5(2): National Aboriginal Firefighters Competition

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my constituents in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Nunavut's firefighters that represented Nunavut at the Annual Aboriginal Firefighters Competition held in Dauphin, Manitoba this past summer.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 12 years Nunavut has participated in this annual event and we have won the Most Sportsmanship Award 10 times. This year we shared that honour with Ontario's Six Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to say that this year our firefighters placed fifth out of eight teams. Mr. Speaker, each year we have improved our standing at this annual event. This improvement shows the dedication of our volunteer firefighters and shows the continuing advances the territory has made with the training programs offered through the Municipal Training Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Celestino Amaroalik of Igloolik, Ramon Kaviok of Arviat, Darren Makkigak and Kyle Lowe of Rankin Inlet, Pitsiula Michael of Kimmirut, Steven Iqalukjuak of Clyde River, and Brian Ukuqtunnuaq of Taloyoak. These individuals have demonstrated their commitment to developing and improving their skills to ensure the safety of their communities. They are fine examples to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 090 – 5(2): The Qikiqtaaluk Region Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire is Available for a Limited Time

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A patient satisfaction questionnaire will be available at the Qikiqtani General Hospital and all health centres in the Qikiqtaaluk Region October 31 through to December 15, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, the release of this questionnaire aligns with Canadian Patient Safety Week, which runs from October 28 to November 2 this year. In support and promotion of best practices in patient safety, the purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain feedback from Nunavummiut on how they feel about the care and service delivery provided by our department.

Mr. Speaker, the questionnaire collects information on a variety of different topics, including quality of service, respect for values, and level of communication and education about treatments and procedures.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage patients and their families to participate before the deadline of December 15, 2018. They can complete the questionnaire during their visit to the Qikiqtani General Hospital and/or any health centre in the Qikiqtaaluk region. Staff members will be available for assistance if needed. Mr. Speaker, the questionnaire can be submitted in a sealed envelope to the health facility or can be taken home and mailed back to the Office of Patient Relations in the provided prepaid envelope.

The questionnaire is available in Nunavut's official languages with plans for a separate Kitikmeot and Kivalliq region survey in early 2019.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to improving our service delivery and want to hear from you, and your family to help us identify the ways we can meet the health care needs of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 091 – 5(2): Parks Joint Planning and Meeting

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment is working hard on the implementation of the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in Nunavut. The backbone of this agreement is to jointly plan and manage the territorial parks with the participation of Inuit in their communities.

To date we have established one Nunavut-wide and seven community joint planning and management committees. With the support of the departments of Environment, Culture and Heritage, and Economic Development and Transportation, when applicable, these committees are not only developing plans for the parks but also local heritage appreciation plans and local Inuit tourism strategies. This joint plan and management of territorial parks is currently in development in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Sanikiluaq, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I invite everyone to attend the territorial parks committee meetings as those are open to the public. I am very proud of the work these committees have undertaken and achieved to highlight the local significant natural and cultural sites for the benefits of their communities and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 092 – 5(2): Opening of the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Visitor centres are a vital link between outfitters, tourist establishments, guides, and tourists.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting the tourism industry and ensuring Nunavummiut benefit from this growing sector. We demonstrated this commitment by opening the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre on June 16 in Rankin Inlet.

This \$3.6 million visitor centre advertises Kivalliq tourism outfitters and provides an avenue for regional businesses to promote their services. The Nunavut Development Corporation also sells Nunavut artwork at the centre.

We encourage Nunavummiut and all tourists in the Kivalliq region to visit. It has information and artwork from all seven communities.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce we now have a regional visitor centre in each of our three of our regions. I thank all of the people who built, opened, and work in the centre.

I look forward to continuing to improve tourism-based infrastructure in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 145 – 5(2): Recognition of Geela Sowdluapik

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon and greetings to the residents of Pangnirtung, along with my relatives.

I am honoured to stand today to speak to this issue, and to note that this woman is my maternal aunt and she just recently celebrated her 80th birthday this month.

She was also acknowledged as one of the founding members in 1975 when the local alcohol committee was established in Pangnirtung. Today, this committee is now known as the local justice committee, and she has been on the committee for 45 years, so she is well versed in the challenges a local committee faces when dealing with justice issues within a community.

She undertook this burdensome work to assist the community, and this woman's name is Geela Sowdluapik. I want to express my pride in her work, and to extend my appreciation to her, as a retirement celebration took place where she was acknowledged by the Hamlet of Pangnirtung and the justice committee members for her contributions, and she didn't take anything lightly.

Geela Sowdluapik is her name and I would like to honour and thank her. She was recognized by the hamlet council in Pangnirtung when she completed her term. I would like to recognize her and thank her because she has been working for the past 45 years in those fields. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 146 – 5(2): Recognition of Long-term Service Award Recipients

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate an individual. There have been long-service awards to people from all over Nunavut who were recognized for their long service.

From my community, these are the individuals I would like to recognize. From Clyde River for 25 years in the Department of Education, and as a teacher; Igah Hainnu. From Qikiqtarjuaq, for 30 years' service at the health centre, Rosie Kudlualik. In Clyde River, this individual has worked at the community learning centre for 35 years, Jukeepa Hainnu. From Qikiqtarjuaq, this individual worked for 40 years, Sam Killiktee.

We do have to appreciate those long-service award recipients. I congratulate them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 147 – 5(2): Recognizing Hall Beach Teachers

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, people of Amittuq and Nunavut.

I rise today to congratulate the people of Hall Beach. Two individuals have been teachers for a very long time. In my community of Hall Beach, teachers are very receptive and support the whole community.

Every Saturday one of the teachers, Emily, would teach literacy to students and their parents, and bannock making. Emily works very hard to teach children how to write and how to make bannock. I would like to congratulate her. During the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Department of Education about our institutions.

Even though those teachers are *qallunaat* they are a part of our community, very receptive, and a lot of people go to their programs. The school principal, Brenda Manning, initiated those programs. They made bannock, they read books, and the parents participate in those tutorial practices. I would like to congratulate and appreciate the teachers work over and above their duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 148 – 5(2): Grandson Catches First Ugjuk

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, good afternoon.

As an Inuk and as a grandmother, it has been very important when a child catches an animal for the first time. My grandchild, Guilie Towtongie Isakiaq, caught a young seal. He's now a man. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 149 – 5(2): Recognition of Long-term Service Award Recipients

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, Premier, and ministers.

Last Friday here in Iqaluit, there was a recognition celebration hosted by this government, although my colleague already mentioned that event, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the residents of Arviat and Whale Cove who were recognized.

I was invited to the celebration, so I extend my thanks for that invitation to the human resources branch of the (interpretation ends) Department of Finance (interpretation) and the department as well. There were employees from the various departments within the government that were recognized, as they all have different responsibilities under our government.

In looking at our employees, many have worked for many years, and they have proven their capabilities and they are quite skilled, wise and tireless in their positions. We, as MLAs, although we may contemplate different positions, we also know that if we don't have capable employees, then we will not move forward nor will we see improvements.

I would like to congratulate these people, starting with the Department of Health where Lorraine Pameolik works. Thank you. Mitch Campbell from the Department of Environment, I thank you. As well, from (interpretation ends) Family Services, Maryanne Uluadluak, (interpretation) we are thankful for your work.

From the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Suzanne Karetak, thank you, Suzanne. From the Department of Education, Doreen Ikakhik, Agnes Mamgark, and Margaret Okatsiak, we also thank you. Another person who works at the Department of Health is Ootook William Ollie. Ootook, you haven't been to Iqaluit in a while and I wonder why that is the case, as I was expecting to see you. As well, from Whale Cove, a person who is one of the instrumental managers who helps to run the community, from Community and Government Services, Paul Voisey, we thank you.

Additionally, when we look at all the people who have worked tirelessly for our government, we must express our appreciation. Perhaps not on a daily basis, but whenever we have the opportunity as MLAs, we should acknowledge our employees who help this government run. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 150 – 5(2): Cruise Ship Incident near Kugaaruk

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, the people of Taloyoak, our Premier, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues mentioned tourism in their statement and I am pleased it was mentioned as I also have a statement regarding this issue.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about an incident that occurred this summer near my home community of Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, the marine tourism industry has great potential to provide economic benefits to our communities, especially non-decentralized communities with limited employment opportunities.

In recent years the number of cruise ships visiting our communities has increased significantly. However, this increase needs to be accompanied by appropriate safeguards to ensure the protection of people and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have always lived in the Arctic know that although it is the most beautiful place on the planet, it can be very dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, in late August of this year a cruise ship ran aground in the Gulf of Boothia, not far from the community of Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, although we are very grateful that no lives were lost during this incident and that there appears to have been no serious damage to the environment, it should serve to remind us of the risks in this field.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the federal Transportation Safety Board has been investigating this incident, and we look forward to its report and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the government published its new *Marine Tourism Regulations*, and I will have questions at the appropriate time for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 151 – 5(2): Weekend Table Tennis Tournament

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my fellow residents, along with all the people of Nunavut, as well as Iqaluit residents and people who are visiting in the gallery, please be welcome.

The reason why I rise today, as well as to express my congratulations to the many young people who were in Iqaluit, as during the weekend, there was a tournament of perhaps 80 athletes or more young students in Nunavut arrived to Iqaluit, not Igloolik.

Now, they were in town for (interpretation ends) table tennis (interpretation) for which I don't have an Inuktitut term, and I wonder what it is called. Anyhow, they hit a ball back and forth, and there was a tournament for athletes from Nunavut.

I want to acknowledge the following people who arrived from our local community by mentioning their names, Mr. Speaker. They are: Katrina Kipsigaq, Hazel Angnetiaq, Jasmine Allurut, Wayne Quassa, Brendan Kripanik, Cain Ilupaalik, and Zach Awa.

These were the athletes representing Igloolik playing (interpretation ends) table tennis (interpretation) and many athletes travelled to partake in this tournament. Although the majority didn't win any awards, the fact that everyone gained some experience while joyfully participating are examples we wish to see from our precious youth.

It is to see them enjoying an activity and practicing to improve in their chosen sport, whichever that may be. I wanted to particularly mention this event today, and to extend our congratulations to all the participants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 152 – 5(2): Recognition of Long-term Service Award Recipient

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, good day. To the people of Gjoa Haven who are watching, my wife and my grandchildren, I would like to say "hello."

I would like to recognize an individual from Gjoa Haven who was given a long-service award in Education; Mr. Joanni Sallerina. He has been the Mayor of Gjoa Haven for a long time. In those years while he was teaching, he told us a story about his students.

There was one particular student who started crying, and then all the students started crying. Joanni had no idea what to do so he went to get the principal to make these students happy.

Some of these students that Joanni taught now have grandchildren. I would like to recognize Joanni Sallerina for 30 years of accomplishment and a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 153 – 5(2): Arctic Bay Participants at Table Tennis Tournament

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of the High Arctic. For those in Arctic Bay that are hunting stranded whales, I wish I was there.

At the end of the month the youth had a Ping-Pong tournament. Arctic Bay won third place medals. I would like to congratulate and recognize participants for coming here. They provided a good show. Please keep trying, young people in these activities.

They were Crystal Enoogoo, Julia Eecheak, Cheryl Tilley, Joy Attagutaluk, Raigilee Attagutsiak, and their chaperone, Melinda Audlakiak.

The young men were Cody Hughes, Edmond Willie, Storme Aola, Shane Taqtu, and their male chaperone, Dale Aola.

I congratulate them and I'm happy that they will come home with medals for the young women and the young men will be going home tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 154 – 5(2): Recognition of Long-term Service Award Recipients

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As some of my colleagues previously mentioned earlier, members were invited to attend the ceremonies to recognize long service awards to certain people, some of whom have spent multiple years working in their positions.

I want to express my pride in the recognized employees from Rankin Inlet. The service awards ranged from 20 to 40 years of service provided to governments. These are the following people: Robert Connelly, Marianne Kabluitok, David Tulugak...I believe David Tulugak was the coolest employee there.

As well, his wonderful wife Marlene Tulugak was there; Mark Gordon, Jacqueline Shouldice, Margaret Okatsiak, Joanne Kootoo, and last but not least, Marie Tiktaq who has worked at the Rankin Inlet health centre for over 40 years. At this time, I believe she recently retired. I am extremely proud of her dedication and I am grateful we had the

chance to acknowledge her, as well as to my colleagues who attended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 155 – 5(2): Recognition of Long-term Service Award Recipients

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and people of Nunavut.

I would like to recognize on Friday during our dinner and celebration for our government long-service awards, the participants came in from all over Nunavut. Even though there was only one person from my constituency of Cape Dorset, he has been working for the government for 40 years, and he... . He even had a standing ovation for attending.

I would like Tirak Parr of Cape Dorset and she's worked very hard. Thinking of the 40 years is a lifetime. That was even before I was born when she started and she is still working today and she's been working for a long time and we see good from that. The staff provide a huge assistance. I would like to appreciate them for working for so many years, and everybody who came in, we appreciate them, and we feel for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Member's Statement 156 – 5(2): Kugluktuk Participants at Table Tennis Tournament

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

I rise today to recognize the table tennis team from Kugluktuk. The coaches: Attila and Maria Csaba. The players; Alexander Palongayak, Daniel Niptanatiak, Kimberly Hokanak, Alice Anablak, Caleb Bolt, Makenzie Demerah and Layla Demerah, and Jim Kamingoak.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of these athletes. As they're all heading home with a medal or two or more.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would especially like to thank the coaches Maria and Attila, for their many years of coaching the sport to the many athletes that come from Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say five out of the six players heading to the Canada Winter Games come from Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Whoa!

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no further names on my list. Back to the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It gives me great pleasure to introduce and welcome the Cambridge Bay table tennis athletes and their chaperones.

Please stand when I say your name. Our chaperone for the girls, Nellie Hogaluk.

>> *Applause*

For the boys; Ben Bradley.

>> *Applause*

And our athletes are: Kianna Ekpakohalok;

>> *Applause*

Rhea Ekpahokak;

>> *Applause*

Annica Otokiak;

>> *Applause*

Sherry Evetalegak.

>> *Applause*

And our boys are: David Komak;

>> *Applause*

Jordan Allukpik;

>> *Applause*

Adam Komaksiut;

>> *Applause*

Nikki Ekpakohalok.

>> *Applause*

I'm proud to announce that two of our players, David and Jordan won the bronze medal in the doubles finals. Congratulations and welcome to your House. I wish you safe travels home, even though you had lots of fun, you guys look tired.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. I'm very proud of you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Welcome each and every one of you. I want to recognize Rosemary Keenainak, who now lives in Ottawa, but we have known her for many years. I would also like to welcome her to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Keenainak, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome visitors to our Gallery. They are interpreter-translators from Greenland; Ole Birch, who is the head of the office; Kim Christianson, project manager, and Aqqaluk Egede, interpreter.

Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Also, I would like to acknowledge a person from Culture and Heritage, Stephane Cloutier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to welcome the people from Greenland. Welcome to Canada and Nunavut territory. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this person was already recognized, I would like to welcome Rosemary Keenainak. She is originally from Pangnirtung. That's where she was raised and I'm very pleased to see you again. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this person is not from my community, I would like to welcome Albert Ehaloak. I previously lived in Cambridge Bay for three years, and when I was living there he was very receptive and welcoming. I would like to thank him and welcome him to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 199 – 5(2): Status of the Department of Human Resources

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seem to be speaking a lot lately.

>>*Laughter*

Today I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

(interpretation ends) Last week I asked the Premier some questions about his announcement regarding the timeline and process for the government review of its harassment policy. In his response to my questions the Premier stated that "The timeline would be to coincide with a separation of HR from Finance as a standalone department."

Mr. Speaker this gives me perfect opportunity to question the Minister of Finance for an update regarding the status of this transition which he announced on July 11 of this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Premier. I thank the member for that question.

>>*Laughter*

I was anticipating it after his line of questions to the Premier last week. Just to give everyone an update that's paying attention earlier this year as a legislature there is a lot of interest in creating a standalone department of Human Resources again, supported quite broadly across the legislature.

I do want to take the opportunity to immediately following that actions were taken of hiring a consultant firm to discuss and interview and gather information from a number of stakeholders from within the government and other stakeholders to figure out a real model that's going to function fully and meet the needs for providing employment to the public service.

That review has been completed and we're analyzing the information to decide on what actual appropriate model that this department is going to look like.

At this time we are anticipating implementation date of April 1 with the information that we have to date so I cannot commit to that date but that is our goal of having this Department of HR as a standalone department as of April 1, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before I ask for your supplementary, I want to assure the Premier that I don't want your title. I don't want your job. I'm quite honoured to be the Speaker of the House.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation)Your first supplementary, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for that. He mentioned he hired a consultant to gather information what direction to go. Maybe he can't answer this, but I want to better understand more on this.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify if the government has decided to simply reconstitute the Department of Human Resources in the same form as it was before its dissolution the year 2013 or is the government contemplating an entirely new structure that incorporates additional or perhaps fewer functions than it previously had? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By a blanket statement, I can say all options are on the table. I believe our goal as a cabinet and as government is to make sure that human resources is, realistically, probably the most critical department when we're talking about dealing with capacity issues across the departments, dealing with a public service that is not struggling with capacity issues and a representative public service.

I can assure members that when we look at the exact model, we're looking at putting in and the governance structure that we're going to make sure that Department of Human Resources will have the adequate resources to fulfill its mandate. I look forward to continuing work in that endeavour and having a real "announceable" on behalf of this government in the real near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I would like to go back to the issue of the review of the harassment policy and the role of the Department of Human Resources. The Premier indicated last week that the Minister of Finance would be in a position to confirm whether or not the government's ethics officer, who is appointed under the *Public Service Act*, would be involved in the review.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just looking for a clarification on this I guess. Can the minister confirm the ethics officer position in terms of what is the ethics officer's role in the review of the harassment policy and can the minister confirm if the ethics officer will continue to report to the minister through the Department of Finance, or through the soon to be new Department of Human Resources? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes, I noted that you were asked more than one question, but in view of his original question, if you would respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The questions are all related so I don't mind answering them. I'll do my best to describe in detail.

With regard to the ethics officer being engaged with the review of a harassment policy, because there are ethics involved, the ethics officer would be consulted whether it be during the review of the policy or after the review, there would be an opportunity for him or if there is a change in the ethics officer in the meantime, or her, they would have an opportunity to review the policy.

Again, we just want to make sure that any time we're looking at a review of a policy, again, that would, as the Premier had mentioned, that would happen under the direction of the Minister responsible for the new/old Department of Human Resources.

A timeline associated with that would be under the mandate of the new deputy minister when that individual is named to the portfolio, along with the appropriate minister that would be named.

In all description, any time we would be looking at harassment and what the implications are to the civil service, the ethics officer would be engaged in some capacity in that review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 200 – 5(2): Coral Harbour School Assessment

Mr. Netser: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon everyone. (interpretation) I say “good day” to the people of Aivilik. When you come from Aivilik, you just crave walrus meat.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, we’ve had a concern with a problem occurring in our school. Something is not right because the students have been catching impetigo, and the teachers and students have been getting headaches. I believe them. Every time I enter the school, by the time I walk out I have a headache. There is something in that school.

This is something that I’ve tabled from the bottom of the school. It does not look too good. With the permafrost melting, there is water accumulating under the school. Some of us believe there is a bad odour coming from that area. It’s just going to be renovated my constituents are very concerned about that.

I would like to direct my question to the hon. minister about this matter. Are government schools adequate? What do his staff do to ensure schools are safe that way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. I believe you. Some facilities like the schools, whenever something occurs in them, it makes people ill that happens. We know that happens. When there is a problem like that in a community like the one in Coral Harbour, the school that you are referring, the local DEA would tell the department that school in Coral Harbour has problems with it.

Once we hear that there is a problem we will investigate it and go see what the alleged problems are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Several days ago I was late in getting here because the plane was delayed and I had to fly to Rankin Inlet on Tuesday. I flew with someone who had gone to Coral Harbour from Ontario, directed by the Department of CGS to investigate the school condition, and I flew with that person to Rankin Inlet. This worker, perhaps I will switch to English, Mr. Speaker, so that I am clearly understood.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, several days ago I met an occupational hygienist who was visiting my community's Sakku School and was taking samples from the infrastructure and I asked to be informed of the results of that analysis of those samples but was told they would be provided to the Department of Community and Government Services.

Will the minister commit to sharing the results of an environmental health-related analysis undertaken at the Coral Harbour Sakku School to myself and to the DEA as soon as they are available?

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is very worrisome if you're just planning to renovate or upgrade the school. They haven't received any reports from that hygienist yet, and we don't have all of the information yet as to what is in the school. Are you still going to be planning to just renovate it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickee. My apologies.

>> *Laughter*

Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No wonder, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleague... First of all, thank you for asking the question about your school. We don't want the schools to be dangerous to our children, because our people and our children are in them. That person who went to investigate or take samples to make sure there is nothing dangerous in the school, I'm sure we will hear the results, and once we hear the results and have news to convey to you, we will inform you of what they discovered from the school samples.

If there are other matters that affect this, I will inform you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Once again, my apologies to the two ministers. (interpretation) Your final supplementary, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. (interpretation ends) I recognize that the Department of Community and Government Services has conducted an extensive business case study of the school situation in Coral Harbour, and I finally, Mr. Speaker, received a copy almost six weeks after requesting it from the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the Coral Harbour school business case study covers program needs, capacity growth, lifecycle costs, and facility issues, and determined that replacing the school was too expensive compared to renovating the existing structure.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have a great case with climate change upon us that the unknowns underneath our school are exposing into the atmosphere of our school.

Can the minister explain clearly how these types of studies take into account the potential future costs related to health risks, environmental risks, health threats, hygienic status of facilities when they are being assessed for renovations or replacement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For infrastructure like the school we are referring to, when we feel they need to be replaced or renovated, we have a group of people like deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers that deal with that before it gets to me.

They look into it and see what it is going to cost, if it's necessary to replace it, if it is easy to fix, or how it can cost effectively be repaired. Sometimes there is a cheaper alternative but sometimes the more expensive alternative is the better alternative.

They review it for the best route to take, like the person who went to the community to take samples. All of that information is compiled and the deputy ministers take it on hand and they look at the finances and which they figure should be the first. They work on that before it gets to my office.

We then reach a decision after that. Can it be renovated? Can we repair it, and if it can't be repaired, what should it be replaced with? That is the process. I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 201 – 5(2): Municipal Governance and Conduct

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet North and to Mary Rose, if you, your mother, and your grandmother are watching and everyone else in Chesterfield Inlet, including the elders.

The question I would like to ask to the Minister of Community and Government Services is concerning the subject of municipal governance and conduct.

As a former mayor, the minister will be very much aware that section 33 of both the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* allow for municipal councils to pass

bylaws that enable them to remove council members who are persistently absent from meetings without the consent of the council.

However, the legislation does not appear to provide councils with equally clear authority to remove members, including the mayor, for other disciplinary reasons such as serious criminal charges.

Mr. Speaker, as elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have the right to discipline ourselves and I believe that elected members of our municipal councils should have the same authority.

Will the minister commit to reviewing this issue with the goal of ensuring that the legislation is amended to clearly provide this authority to municipal councils if something happens like if there are criminal charges laid? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that legislation in front of me. From my understanding, if a hamlet councillor breaks the law, they have a way to remove the councillor in the by-laws. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify whether or not the Department of Community and Government Services has entered into any form of agreement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to ensure that the appropriate territorial and municipal authorities are informed in a timely manner in the event that an elected member of a municipal council is charged with an offence under the Criminal Code? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think there is any obligation for the RCMP to tell the municipality when a person has simply been charged of an offence. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that communication is there from my understanding. I stand to be corrected. If I misspeak I will correct myself, but the way I understand it right now, there is no direction given by or to the RCMP to report anybody, a municipal councillor if they have been charged with an offence. They may do so if they feel like it, but I don't believe that there is a "have to." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 33 of the Municipal Ordinance only specifically states if due to absence, not a criminal offence, "...the council member will be deemed to have resigned." In saying that, is the minister aware of how many serving

members of the municipal councils in Nunavut are currently facing charges under the Criminal Code and if he aware, what is the number? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 202 – 5(2): Marine Tourism

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier that I would be asking questions about this, so this is my question (interpretation ends) for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In my member's statement today, I spoke about the incident that took place this summer near my community of Kugaaruk during which a large cruise ship ran aground. As I noted in my statement, it is my understanding that the incident has been under investigation by the federal Transportation Safety Board.

Can the minister clarify how his department has been involved in the investigation of the incident? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. We are not a part of the investigation right now. However, we have informed them during the investigation that we want to be a part of it. After the investigation we want to be told what the next steps are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for partially answering my question.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my member's statement, although no lives were lost during the incident and although no serious damage to the environment appears to have occurred, it could have been much worse.

Can the minister describe how the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is working with the Department of Environment to ensure that communities are adequately prepared to respond to incidents involving large cruise ships, including large-scale fuel spills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I work with Minister of Environment on this and just last week we met with Department of Fisheries and Ocean's minister and I conveyed that concern that we were lucky again this is second time a cruise ship has gone aground and I told him that we are lucky again but the Coast Guard is the authority that looks and oversees any oils spills or any accidents in the marine [sector] they need to be prepared more.

From our communities perspective our communities stepped up and I applaud Kugaarummiut for stepping up on this as the Coast Guard was going to take two days [to arrive] I'm happy that our people stepped up but it should be that we should continue to communicate with the Coast Guard to say that they need to be ready if they the authority and the mandate to look after the safety of our oceans.

They need to be prepared and be ready and be responsive because cruise ships that are coming are coming in larger numbers and that whoever has the mandate for ocean safety needs to be prepared and I will continue to advocate with my federal colleague and I thank the member for raising this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted in my member's statement the government new marine tourism regulations were published and came into effect early this year. These regulations require that cruise ship operators submit detailed reports to the department concerning their activities while in Nunavut waters.

Will the minister commit to tabling reports in the Legislative Assembly at our upcoming winter sitting concerning cruise ship activities that took place in Nunavut during the 2018 cruise ship season? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These new regulations that we created and advertised this past summer we fully informed all operators and ships that arrived with our regulations and the goal of what we are trying to do.

If the report comes to me I will certainly submit after reviewing I will be able to speak on this to our fellow members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 203 – 5(2): Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to all that make me feel welcome here as I sit as a regular member able to ask questions again.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker over the last few months residents of Iqaluit have almost been able to set their watches by the timing of the daily blasts that have been occurring on the construction site of our much-needed new marine facility.

I along with many Iqalummiut just about die of shock when that blast goes off and our windows rattle. I tell you they could be really loud, but we all put up with this because the new marine facility will bring significant benefits to the capital and other Nunavut communities through significant improvements in sealift efficiencies.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of construction of the new Iqaluit marine facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the construction of large infrastructure and after they have been approved, we refer them to the Department of Community and Government Services.

This infrastructure has been contracted out. I think it would be best if you refer your question the Minister of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, I will give you the floor.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. Ms. Angnakak, yes, it's quite alarming and when the blast goes off its quite shocking, even though it's quite far. The Iqaluit marine facility and the one currently here are on time and on budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't quite know if I got the answer to my question. I know I did a timeline and that we're on budget, but I wasn't provided a real update on where we stand with the project. It is perhaps something I can go back to in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the economic benefits that accompany major infrastructure projects. As the minister is aware, the government's request for tender for the marine infrastructure project stipulated a minimum Inuit labour content requiring 15 percent.

Can the minister indicate if the contractor has met, or hopefully exceeded its Inuit labour obligations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. The work on the site, as best as I know, is on schedule. As far as the details of what "on schedule" means, I don't know, but I do know that is on the schedule that they have it on and right now the contractor, and our department, and the department of transportation are having their monthly meetings along with the city and all the other key players involved, and they are keeping each other updated.

As for the Inuit content and that, as I've described in previous discussions, the goal is to achieve the number of Inuit hired in the envelope to have that achieved, if not even exceeded by the time that the contract is completed.

I will seek in the coming weeks when they have their monthly meeting to see if they are in fact on schedule or exceeding Inuit content because that fluctuates as the year goes. Sometimes they might have more Inuit or fewer, but the goal is to maintain it, and if not, exceed the Inuit impact. As soon as I am able, I will find out where we are on that status and be more than happy to share it with my colleague or colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that information. It's a big project and I think we need to make sure that we're up to date with how it's going.

In the months leading up to the start of the construction, there were some questions surrounding the cleanup of the beach and the removal of shacks and other structures. Can the minister confirm if there have been any outstanding claims for compensation from owners of structures that were removed from this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Yes, there were quite a bit of structures removed from there. A lot of shacks and things like that were removed from the site that had to be removed. From my understanding, everybody that had to be compensated has been compensated, and I believe that they are now in the buildup stage and there is no more cleanup of the site. I believe that that part has concluded and they are now going on and building forward.

In fact I think they're starting to wind down but I anticipate as soon as the weather permits in the new year that they will begin to ramp up again the building of the facility. Right now I see that there is a tug boat on land and they're starting to wind down the moving of rocks and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 204 – 5(2): Water Situation in Sanikiluaq

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

My questions are also for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

During our spring sitting that was held five months ago, I asked the minister for an update on the water supply situation facing Sanikiluaq. As the minister is very much aware, this situation has been ongoing for a significant length of time and the community is hopeful that a permanent solution can be found.

When I asked the minister for an update on this situation at our sitting of May 24, he advised me that his department would be issuing a request for proposals to determine options for the community.

Mr. Speaker, although the minister will be very pleased to hear that I've paid very close attention to the Government of Nunavut's tenders and RFPs that are posted on the department's website, I have not yet seen the RFP for Sanikiluaq's water situation.

Can the minister confirm the status of this request for proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I'm glad someone's paying attention to the website. I looked into the matter also because we are concerned about water and the lack of potable water in a territory full of water. I anticipate that that should be coming out in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister stated, he anticipates it coming out in the very near future. What is considered the very near future? Is that tomorrow? Is that next week? Is that next year? Can he confirm when this RFP will be coming out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I hope before Christmas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That gets me better prepared for questions maybe in the winter sitting.

As the minister will also recall, his department has worked closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Sanikiluaq's local housing organization to install reverse osmosis filters in housing units.

It is my understanding that with the new public housing being built this year, there is still a need for more reverse osmosis filters. Will the minister commit to continuing working with the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that there will be an adequate supply of filters in the community until a permanent solution can be found? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Of course, Mr. Speaker. In fact we have recently signed an agreement with the local housing organization for the... . Let me restart that.

We've signed a new agreement with Community and Government Services with the local housing organization for them to deliver and maintain the reverse osmosis machines in that community.

To date we have, I believe, 30 new osmosis machines; 19 of which have already been installed, and we will work the local housing organization to ensure that all the new housing have reverse osmosis machines installed in them, and that we will work with the housing organization to ensure that where the new filters have to be replaced, they will be in a timely manner.

We're working to ensure that they always have a stock of these filters so that they don't run out for one reason or another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 205 – 5(2): Dust Control Initiatives

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, I recently tabled a petition in the House last week which drew the attention of the government to the serious health problems that have been caused by

dust levels in the community of Igloolik. Fortunately it's becoming winter, and it will become spring and summer.

This concerns health and we keep hearing about it. It has been discussed for many years to no result.

In June 2017, the minister of the day informed the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Community and Government Services was working on dust control pilot projects in the communities of Arviat and Iqaluit which involved a new suppressant product. Can the minister update the House today on the success of the pilot projects in those two communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Quassa for asking that question. The dust, due to a number of vehicles keeps increasing. We need to keep improving on better suppressants. We know the pilot projects were not much of a benefit.

They only suppress dust for a very short time. For different reasons such as there being not enough rain, or the way they need to be distributed on the road, if they don't follow them to the letter, the dust comes back sooner.

To my knowledge, when we're looking at different dust suppressants, this summer they tried it in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet with the assistance of the mining companies. It doesn't suppress much dust. We have to look at other avenues for the roads in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his appropriate response as the supplementary question I was going to pose has mostly been answered about the events that transpired in the summer of 2018.

I was going to ask what activities they undertook, but nonetheless, we should try to envision our future and I wanted to know what further activities they had planned, and as the minister outlined, the activities didn't have the planned benefit.

I wonder what new initiative will be pursued. It is obvious that this will continue to be a priority for members, so I am speaking to this issue, prior to any developments occurring in our communities as it clearly isn't just the case in Igloolik.

Further, we hear from various communities about this matter. Now, what plans or initiatives does the department of CGS have on this front? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with your assessment, sometimes one has to try out many things prior to succeeding. I do recall when I was a youth that we used to play with these suppressants when they would apply it on the road.

It used to be quite convenient, however, we can't do that in this day and age especially in light of the changes to the global structures, and Nunavut still requires further work as we have to abide by legislated obligations.

There are different types of dust suppressants used, and how they would be applied to the road surfaces as they all have different standards and applications. We are studying various dust suppressants and whether other options exist, or if new solutions are being developed.

We will continue to review the options we have related to dust suppressants, as dust continues to pose a problem for many of our communities here in Nunavut. It is not just Igloolik facing that issue, and as a matter of fact, in Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and other communities, they face that dust problem challenge.

We will continue to search for new applications and suppressants, and if any of my colleagues are aware of possible solutions to this challenge, we would welcome any suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Last week I also tabled a document in the Legislative Assembly, which reminded the House of the significant investments that the territorial government made in recent years to provide funding for road paving in the capital city in order to address the dust situation in a more permanent manner. I certainly hope that the government will give Igloolik and other smaller communities the same consistent consideration.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that it will take considerable commitment to make measurable progress against dust in all 25 communities. Can the minister clarify if the dust control projects are eligible for federal funding under its new Investment in Canada Infrastructure Plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I definitely will look into seeing if dust suppressant or pavement of roads is part of the plan or is able to be included in that plan

and I would be more than happy to share it with my colleagues here if it is so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 206 – 5(2): Vacant Staff Housing in Pangnirtung

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon, my question will include this issue under discussion in our (interpretation ends) Committee of the Whole (interpretation) which we are reviewing now, related to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As we all know, many communities face severe housing shortages and this is a common refrain, and Pangnirtung is amongst those communities facing this challenge. In Pangnirtung we continue to discuss the government staff houses that are vacant. I have brought up this issue previously.

What I want to ask about today is: does the Nunavut Housing Corporation pay any lease costs for the six units owned by Northview. It's a six-plex with vacant units that were meant to be staff housing units. I would like to know if the government is paying the owners the rent for those units.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for asking that question. I will look into how the lease is administered and I will get back to her on what the details of it are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are eight vacant staff housing units held by the government separate from the six-plex I asked about. The reason I'm asking is because when you look at the 2015-16 contracting procurement activity report, there is probably a newer version. The government paid \$169,200 annually for the O&M costs of the government staff housing units.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has nothing slated for Pangnirtung for public housing in their capital plans. There are five staff housing units under the 2019-2020 budget request even with the vacant units. There are 14 empty units with the government paying that much money and they're asking for additional funding.

It's not very good to see. The Pangnirtung housing organization is always asking for public housing like many other communities. We need to look at it again and how much money they spend. This needs further review, so my question is: how much the Nunavut

Housing Corporation paid for the vacant staff housing units and what kind positions need to be filled?

There are five additional units that are being requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There seems to be two parts to the question. I will give you the floor if you would like to respond. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for asking that question. The way I can respond is to say I don't have the information in front of me in terms of which units are being leased by the government for staff housing and how much they cost annually. I don't have that information with me.

The officials will be coming here, and I expect that they will have the information and then I will be able to respond. I don't have that information in front of me.

As to the positions slated for staff housing, the Minister responsible for Human Resources, from the housing side, let's say, in Pangnirtung the GN might have 10 jobs open and they require housing with that job so we prepare to meet the housing requirements as stated to us. We do not decide who gets what unit, but we are informed when employment requires housing and we respond. This is what I can say on this not trying to be vague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for answering. As we expect how these changes will roll out and to note for clarity in my community regarding empty government units. Maybe because I don't understand it properly can the NHC minister explain how NHC, CGS, and HR when assigning housing to jobs. How is this arrangement working so communities can understand and also to keep the LHO board members up to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand when we are notified of the requirement for staff housing in a certain community then we go about meeting that need and supplying a unit. The selection committee made up of HR, Finance and NHC assigns those units. We are notified then we make sure to meet that requirement as dated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 207 – 5(2): School Space Planning for Hall Beach

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, my question is for the Minister of Education.

The principal and the DEA committee have concerns that our school is too small. Mr. Speaker, let me explain. This spring, 35 new students graduated from kindergarten. My question is whether the education minister supports our community DEA and principal's request for getting a larger school or addition at this time? Can the minister speak to this and when we can expect an answer? Is planning being done for Hall Beach? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The Department of Education distributes a planning document for upcoming school requirements in the territory that outlines our priorities for new school construction and/or additions. Regarding the school in Hall Beach the Arnarjuaq School has a plan for the year 2018-19 but how these priorities will be finalized is not yet done. I will say the planning continues now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this issue in my community is not just for students in kindergarten. It applies to the high school too.

They are filled to capacity and in your policy it states that there is a student-teacher ratio. Looking at the kindergarten class, they've separated the students because there are so many. Some of them go to school in the morning, and some go in the afternoon, and in the afternoon they exchange.

I believe you need to look at the size of our school because the population of Hall Beach is growing like any other community in Nunavut. With that, we are requesting that the Department of Education consider, even through the DEA and as a regular member, if I write a letter to you requesting that you go look at our school as the Minister of Education, I was very pleased that the school is still in the plans.

One issue that I'm concerned about, as I stated before, is the teachers in our communities are trying to provide support and they provide mentorship, and they make bannock and welcome the parents to tutorial work. This is very important.

When I was campaigning, this is what I was campaigning for. As the Minister of Education, what are your timelines? Can you set a date or a month as to exactly when you will be able to provide that information to us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for the member's question, I cannot exactly tell you when in our plans are, but just to elaborate further, there are many communities don't have the capacity in their schools.

We want to have as many students as possible going to school every day because it's important for the child's future. With that, the schools are filled to capacity. Looking at all the schools and looking at kindergarten, we want to have full day kindergarten program. In view of that, we can request many things but I'm sure not all of them can be approved, so I just want you to be aware of that.

We're beginning to work on plans to look at which schools are filled to capacity and looking at the percentage of enrolment or attendance, but I cannot tell you exactly when this will occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the kindergarten students are going to have a full day, the teacher is going to have many students to teach, and I'm sure the issue will rise once they start doing full days. There will be more kids crying and more children not listening perhaps, and they will be more emotional.

They say that raising our children starts in school. Once the students start full days in kindergarten, they will be learning what they see from their peers, and they will learn new things from their peers, and that's what I'm afraid of. When we are small, we don't forget. We can never forget. If someone is not nice or not good to that child, the child won't forget. The child will not forget if they were treated negatively. That is what I am afraid of.

Can the minister indicate, Mr. Speaker, that during the review of the *Education Act*, or legislation that Nunavut residents will have the opportunity to voice their concerns, but myself, in looking at that matter, as per my previous statement that there were 35 kindergarten students that graduated.

Once they are attending school full time in kindergarten and if we look at the teacher, they want to teach their students properly and equally, but it can also lead to problems arising due to too many students.

Mr. Speaker, my question now to the minister now is: is the teacher to student ratio listed in the legislation where the number of students per teacher is set? Is that in the policy? I would ask that the minister can elaborate the details of the policy specifically the numbers set for a teacher to student ratio? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague whom I thank for his question. The students are enrolled in each community, where the

enrolment figures for the end of September are then tabulated. Then once the total number of students is known, then they distribute or allocate the number of teachers to the local DEAs and the school principals are involved.

This is where deliberations are made related to the allocation of the teacher, and which subjects they would teach. This is the outlined process for allocating teachers, and the numbers that lead to the allocations are set by the principals and vice-principals.

This doesn't review every position in the schools, but the numbers of teachers required. We do expect that in the short term future, that my ministerial colleagues will approve the legislation I wanted reviewed. I will be submitting this for cabinet approval, as the legislative review was approved in the last assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Motion 016 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, that time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion and the motion is in order, and it's not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended by 30 minutes starting now. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 208 – 5(2): Student accommodations for Iqaluit Residents

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. It is regarding the accommodations for students studying at Nunavut Arctic College's Nunatta Campus.

Mr. Speaker, on August 21, I wrote a letter to the minister after receiving a number of correspondence from constituents, who were shocked to hear that they were being denied student accommodation here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, in my letter, I noted that although the policy indicates that priority will be given to out-of-town full-time students for accommodations in the residences, it also provides that other requests will be assessed on an individual basis. It's my understanding that that's how it's been working for the last number of years.

I was alarmed about this blanket prohibition against Iqaluit residents living in student accommodation. I did receive a response from the minister on October 16 and I thank you for that letter, but it did not answer all of my questions, so I'll take the opportunity now to ask one of my questions in the original letter.

My question is: to what extent did this policy change or amendment... ? Well, who made the decision to place a blanket prohibition on Iqaluit residents from attaining student accommodation? Was it the minister, the board of directors, or the bureaucrats within Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for his question. I can't say specifically because it wasn't me. I can say that. These policies have been in place for quite some time. What we have noticed, of course, we had new leadership that came in over the last year to take over the president and the vice-president role, and they have taken quite a large reorganizational stance.

One thing that they did find was that we have learner residents across the territory and I would name the regional centres, but this policy of learner residents has been applied inconsistently. We're trying to move towards a consistent-based policy. We are still reviewing and continuing to make improvements to this, and we are aware of the situation here in Iqaluit.

There are many students who come from around the region and we are prioritizing them at this point. I will be discussing this with the board and bringing it up or I will ask the president to bring it up with the board and see what solution they can bring and find out who made the call to do a blanket policy for Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response, minister. When I receive correspondence from some of the constituents, I had actually received phone calls from constituents and they're on the phone crying because they couldn't afford to pay market rent. At the same time they were not eligible for student residence, so they were forced to withdraw. They were accepted to Nunavut Arctic College, but without that student residence, they were not able to attend.

My first question is: how many students who were originally accepted to attend Nunavut Arctic College eventually denied or turned down their acceptance due to lack of student housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for his follow-up. Our college here in Iqaluit, we have six separate locations that provide learner accommodation. There are a total of 42 single learner accommodation units, 107 family learner accommodations. We do provide quite a bit of living arrangements for students. The need for the learners always exceeds what the college is able to provide.

With that, we're always short in our need, but in terms of his question, I would have to get back to him on exactly how many students had withdrawn after being accepted to the college based on the residency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I need to remind members to please refrain from using people's first names or "he" or "she." Thank you.

(interpretation) Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep this last question short and simple. Of the 149 units the minister just indicated are currently available in the Nunatta Campus, at the beginning of the academic school year, September 5 I believe it was, how Iqaluit students were provided accommodation as of that date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. My answer is simple, and I will have to get back to him on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 209 – 5(2): Operations at Medical Boarding Facilities

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

A lot of times our constituents will tell us stories about problems with the boarding home in Winnipeg. One of the main problems is the staff down there cause problems for some of the clients. Not all of them though, but when people tell you things, we end up asking questions.

We go down there as regular MLAs, and I was told stories. Whenever the staff find out that MLAs are going to go down there, they really do a good job of cleaning up the building. I asked the minister: when they are expecting us, what is the normal procedure? What is the protocol (interpretation ends) in terms of us regular MLAs going down to visit the transient centre in Winnipeg? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no established protocol to notify... well, not to notify but for the facility to make any adjustments to their normal day-to-day activities.

I always promote any member to visit any of our facilities that we have under contract and to let us know as a department. There are some, depending upon the facility, there are

some privacy issues and things along those lines, policies that we have to make sure we adhere to from our end of the contracting.

I'll use a little analogy. When I used to work in the corporate world, we would get notification that some vice-president was coming to town, or coming to our workplace and we'd all be scrambling around trying to clean up, and my opinion Mr. Speaker, is that when you do that, you're not really showing the leadership where the issues and the challenges are.

I would encourage members and clients that are travelling that if they see anything, especially if it's an unsafe, or unsanitary issue, to bring it to the member's attention, to bring it my attention, to bring it to the Office of Patient Relations so that we can make sure that the conditions of our contract are adhered to.

We have very stringent guidelines within our contracted services to make sure that our clientele, and therefore our residents of Nunavut, are welcomed, that the services are provided in all the contracted facilities that we have contracts with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Do I understand correctly that we sneak into that boarding home and visit there secretly without telling them beforehand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that was the impression I gave, I apologize to the House. That is not the intent, that wasn't the intent of any of the comments that I made.

I actually strongly deter that type of activity that, if somebody were to go into a boarding home, or one of our contracted facilities, there are policies in place due to the privacy of the residents that are in there. I would assume that they wouldn't be able to get past the front reception, if you were to provide a surprise visit.

I would encourage all of our facilities to make sure that the priority is the safety of our clients and the privacy of our clients, so if I misinterpreted or if I misinterpreted my comments, I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also thank the hon. minister. My last question, Mr. Speaker, is I have a constituent that spent six weeks with his wife down in the centre, and everyday he said they fed him chicken. He was "chickened out."

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, sorry for the verbiage but that was the only thing I could think of at the moment, “chickened out.”

But my question is do they have like...you know, we go to restaurants and we can't expect the transient centre to be like a restaurant but every now and then, you live in the same place you appreciate a different meal.

What is the contract between the government and the services, in terms of providing different menus for the patients? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the member would tire of having the same meal every day over and over as well too. I will take that away, and I appreciate the comment and I will have my officials discuss the menu options at the Inuit centre in Winnipeg to see how much flexibility and dietary nutritional needs are maintained, yet some choices or different options may become available. I will take that away and I will have my officials contact the facility and have discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 210 – 5(2): Review of Workplace Harassment throughout Government

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Now those of us who read and listen to the news in Nunavut, the Chief Medical Officer for Nunavut, Dr. Kim Barker resigned or quit recently. In reading the news, and listening to the territorial news, a lot of times we believe what we hear or read. Perhaps I will switch to English, with your forbearance, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) In that news, Dr. Kim Barker does talk about bullying within the government. In fact, Dr. Kim Barker did use the word “toxic” or beyond toxic and of course, we all know that this is not the first time that we have heard of the word “toxic” in terms of harassment, etcetera, within this government.

It's very disheartening to hear as such and you as the minister, both responsible for human resources. Will the minister consider a department-wide review of the workplace within the government because these are the terms that are very disturbing and would the minister consider that? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. I don't want to make an error, as you seem to be requesting a review of a department. I will ask the question to the finance

minister, who is responsible for human resources, and I would like the finance minister to respond to the question as the Minister responsible for Human Resources. Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things, I know all of us in here and we've had discussions in the House here and in different committee meetings on workplace safety, harassment and bullying has been a topic that has been of interest in a lot of people's minds.

I think the first thing I want to encourage people, is any time that you feel that you are not being treated properly at work, or you're not feeling safe to go to work, that you contact your supervisor. That you contact up to the deputy minister, in extreme cases where some people don't feel comfortable going to the supervisor.

We do have established procedures in place on how to escalate or how to make a complaint so that anyone who's feeling like that they've been harassed or that they're not being treated fairly, that they follow those procedures.

One of the things we do, is we follow the number of complaints that departments are given. And where there's an escalated number or higher number than normal or even a spike in the data, we would definitely do a review to see what the source of those concerns are.

We've not seen that spike contrary to what's been reported in the media, that I won't comment on a specific instance, but there are no complaints that were brought forward to my attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It isn't just Iqaluit facing that and this is not the first time we have heard about incidents like this. For example, we're talking about Iqaluit but we do hear it in the outlying communities also.

Because we get approached by the public if they have a concern about departments. For example, I can't quite say the Inuktitut word for harassment, and there are other terms used. We have heard concerns and we have heard about bullying, toxic work environments, about threats from...I can't even say it properly in Inuktitut.

But we did hear that from the events around the Chief Medical Officer, as there has to be accountability for those who try to bully or harass other employees. The individuals who are bullying or threatening workers should be held accountable and dealt with.

I think this is under the responsibility of the deputy ministers, and we have to ensure that employees are not bullied or threatened, and I am reiterating my question to the finance minister to consider that as we know that he will be responsible for human resources. Can

the minister commit to doing a departmental review within his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the creation of the new Department of Human Resources, there is a lot of focus and effort being put into the work to make sure that that department is going to be a fully functioning department that is going to be able to work within its mandate.

If at such time that it's determined that a harassment review would be necessary, I would fully support that.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, there are many different avenues for people to bring forward any concerns that they would have on the professionalism or the safety in the workplace, going all the way up to, like the member stated, a deputy minister level. Even if they're still not satisfied, there is also the ethics officer that they can approach that can do an independent investigation to see if further investigation or further discipline would be necessary.

I believe that the parameters are there for people to report a concern or an issue and I strongly encourage, and I know many different leaders across our government would encourage anyone if they have a legitimate concern to bring forward that they should have the necessary avenues to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that comment. There has to be accountability not only in Iqaluit but also in the outlying communities of Nunavut; in the decentralized communities and also the non-decentralized communities.

My final question is: we know, and we've said it every day that we document all those and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is the foundation of this government. We also have to follow the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. That is the foundation of this government. I just wanted to elaborate further. I don't have a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for stating you didn't have a question in your response. We will then move on to the next name. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 211 – 5(2): Bullying in Schools

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me again. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education.

We all know that bullying takes place in Nunavut schools and it is of a concern. Young people of Arviat and Whale Cove, yes, they're under age. They can't vote, but we do represent them in the House.

Since I used to be a youth I have been bullied. At times I didn't go to school because of the bullying and I did enjoy going to school. My first question is: what is does your department doing to continue to decrease the number of cases of bullying? What are you doing to combat bullying in the schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. Mr. Speaker, bullying has an effect on the students and the students need a safe environment while they're in attendance. Bullying happens not only in the schools but also in other places. We have to work not only with the schools but also with the parents and also the community as a whole, and to make sure that we have anti-bullying campaigns happening at the community level.

The teachers and I'm sure the students know which of the students are being bullied or threatened. We try to keep an eye out on kids being bullied. We have to educate the students and do an awareness campaign. That's what we do in our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister. I know that the Department of Education tracks all kinds of different things: school utilization, attendance. I guess my question, getting back to my first question: what specific measure does the Department of Education use to track bullying in the schools across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. (interpretation ends) We partner with Canadian Red Cross to provide training and these are preventative measures against bullying, and these programs include things such as healthy relationships, bullying prevention, Be Safe and Respect Education integrated training, but with that, I don't think there's a specific measure where the member asks about how we track bullying and what level it's at. These are some of the ways in which we try to combat and address bullying, and we are open to suggestions.

Maybe there are best practices that are being used in a particular school that can be used elsewhere. Again, let me emphasize that we want to also engage families in this and the community to address bullying, not only in the schools but community-wide. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for being open to suggestions because I have a specific suggestion that came directly from a parent in my constituency who has experienced bullying. The parent in question is that their child no longer wanted to attend school and went so far as to refusing to attend school. The parent had suggested to me the idea of “bullying monitor,” to have a monitor specifically in the classroom to address the issue of bullying. He didn’t get too specific with his suggestion. It could be volunteer position.

I would like the minister, if he could commit to look into this suggestion as well as other out-of-the-box type ideas because I feel very strongly that we do need to do more to address bullying. With regard to this suggestion and other possible solutions or measures, I would like the minister’s commitment to look into those. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the member’s question. We will consider all different types of ways to address bullying, and thank you for the suggestion.

The one other thing I want to share too was the DEAs have a policy in place for school students specifically when there are issues with a student and they try to address certain activities such as bullying. There might be other things, but we do have policies in place that we try to fall back on and try to employ. I encourage colleagues here as well as Nunavummiut to gain more awareness as well as stand up to bullying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that Question Period is now over, and you have already extended it once, so we will go back to the orders of the day. Written questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.

And before we proceed, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:52 and resumed at 16:16

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 073 – 5(2): Move Letters from Coral Harbour Parents Regarding Health Concerns at Sakku School****Tabled Document 074 – 5(2): Submission from the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first document speaks to the parental concerns about their children attending our school. They have submitted letters and I am very proud of parents who wrote their concerns. I would like to table these letters.

The other document speaks to our local HTO concerns about polar bear management issues. I would like the letters to be carefully reviewed by my colleagues once they have been made available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Tabled Document 075 – 5(2): Submission from the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is specific to polar bear management concerns in my community of Arviat as well as Whale Cove, which is a priority issue for both communities.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be holding a public hearing next month to consider the Government of Nunavut's proposed polar bear co-management plan.

I am pleased to table copies of the submissions that the Arviat and Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization have made to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, which I encourage all members to review with care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Tabled Document 076 – 5(2): Youth Report to the 2018 Kitikmeot Inuit Association Annual General Meeting

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to table a copy of the youth report that was presented at the recent 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, this report highlights a number of important activities and initiatives that have been taking place in our region and I encourage all members review it with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Tabled Document 077 – 5(2): Nunatsiaq News Article: Nunavut Mayor Charged with Assault

Tabled Document 078 – 5(2): Submission from the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents I would like to table. The first document pertains to the local hamlet by-law 33. The bylaw contains gaps that are being used as loopholes, and it has resulted in breaking the bylaw as it speaks to removal for cause but because of the lack of authority from the hamlet, it is not being followed. That is the first document.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The polar bear issue is also an important issue to my constituents. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be holding a public hearing next month to consider the Government of Nunavut's proposed polar bear co-management plan. I am pleased to table a copy of the submission that the Rankin Inlet hunters and trappers organization has made to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Tabled Document 079 – 5(2): Correspondence from the Pangnirtung Housing Association to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table this letter from the Pangnirtung LHO, which outlines the fact that no new public housing units have been allocated over the past two years. They do not support the government's plans to build five new staff housing units because of the vacancies and the last unit that was transferred to the LHO, which is ten years old and to carefully consider this letter from the Pangnirtung Housing Organization to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Let us proceed. Notices of Motions. Notices for Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 16: Motions**Motion 014 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

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

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

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Motion 015 – 5(2): Censure of Executive Council

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that the Executive Council of Nunavut be censured.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I will switch to English for this part.

(interpretation ends) I do not accept or have difficulty accepting the explanation from the Premier that the breach of confidentiality by the former minister and Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu and the breach of confidentiality by the Minister of Education are not the same.

I believe that there is a double standard. A minister was disciplined by the Premier publicly, with the end result that the minister resigned from the Executive Council. The Minister of Education was not disciplined, but the staff was.

I am not interested who that person is that breached the workplace protocol of confidentiality or their oath of office, but my professional and personal point of view, I see in my constituency, and tell me that they also see a double standard has occurred.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has stated both in his statement to the House in answering questions in this House and in his press release that “I made the decision that I did with the consensus and the backing of cabinet.”

Therefore I believe that all of the cabinet shares the blame for what I believe is a double standard and that is why all members of cabinet are being censured. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To speak to the motion, I want to show my support in this House. Mr. Speaker, the motion needs to be watched closely as it is not a subject to be taken lightly.

(interpretation ends) Censuring the cabinet is a serious matter. However, I believe it is what must be done at this time in order to assure our constituents that we are listening to them.

Mr. Speaker, the last few days have been difficult for all of us. However, I have heard concerns from my constituents that the government needs to be sent a strong message, and I believe this is the way to do it.

Mr. Speaker, our elders taught us very clearly that if we were on the wrong path we needed to be set straight. (interpretation) That is how our elders taught us to do as Inuit.

(interpretation ends) A motion of this nature should be seen as a necessary and needed disciplinary action that is appropriate to the circumstances.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing my constituents that speak of equality and fairness to all and to see a unified strategy from our government and its leaders. (interpretation ends) I myself am not satisfied that this is currently being provided.

Mr. Speaker, I have great difficulty in accepting the Premier’s explanation about why two different ministers were treated very differently for what amounts in my view to be the same offence. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day it is the Premier who is ultimately responsible for the cabinet and who is accountable to the House.

(interpretation) Today this motion is clear and must be seen in a positive light for moving forward, to unite our team and add more vigour and strength in our approach for not only members but also to show it to our constituents. Our constituents are the ones who placed us in this House and have expectations.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to close by noting that one of our territory most respected leader John Amagoalik spoke publicly last week about the need for all of us and the government to do better.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this motion is absolutely clear in its meaning as that is the intent. Further, I urge all my colleagues to indicate their support of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Mr. Speaker, it was just last week I was stripped of my ministerial portfolio by the Premier and just last week that I resigned from the executive council, so it would seem as though I am in a bit of a predicament with regard to whether to support, reject, or abstain from this motion.

The motion before us is not my motion, but I have carefully considered it since becoming aware of it. My regular member colleagues know that as a minister, I was always open with them on the issues that were facing us.

I have admitted publicly that we are in a crisis on a number of social issues, and that I don't have a magic wand to waive around to make everything right. So I'm aware I have my own shortcomings and flaws, and I'm truly disappointed that I wasn't able to accomplish more as a minister.

I don't expect any of my former cabinet colleagues to have all the answers to the many issues that we all face, but I respect many of my former colleagues and I know that they work hard and I know what you're up against.

Many of my former colleagues know clearly that if I were to support this motion, I could do so for good reason and that I too could stay on the high road just for saying that.

Mr. Speaker, last week's drama centered on the allegation that I had breached cabinet confidence. Today, I see the Premier has once again gone out of his way to try and exploit that.

Again, I want to state that I honestly answered a question in the House and did so only after raising the issue with the Premier. I was holding that document when I went to see the Premier and it's the exact same document I was holding and reviewing with the Premier's staff as directed by him.

That document was in my possession the whole time I was in this House. Again, I simply provided forward looking information on items for consideration. I still believe the hysteria around the document is nothing more than a diversion or a red herring. I believed that we had put this all behind us.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not trying to upset the apple cart, but I wouldn't be telling the full truth if I pretended that I wasn't frustrated or disappointed with the Premier's leadership, or still somewhat bitter about the level of control and blatant abuse he allowed a few senior officials to get away with.

This territory is in a crisis mode with suicide, the lack of resources, infrastructure, housing shortages, staff shortages, workplace harassment, and a general lack of money.

Ministers only have two staff members. The Premier only has a couple more. In many instances, these same staff are seconded and it makes it difficult for them to question authority or even to exercise a basic challenge function.

I believe the lack of balance between the political and departmental level is shortchanging our residents and making it difficult to affect change. Last week I committed to working with the Premier, and the cabinet, and all the MLAs towards doing what is best for Nunavut.

I made my decision to resign from cabinet and now feel a tremendous weight has been lifted. I feel optimistic again, because I know I can push greater accountability and transparency. I also believe that I can have a greater impact on affecting change as a regular member by standing up for my constituents and all Nunavummiut.

Voicing their concerns and speaking my mind. I previously mentioned that the Premier told me he needs to be seen taking action, taking action on this now so he can't be criticized by any of our colleagues later.

With that same comment in mind, I am anxious to see if he will look in the mirror and reflect on the overall message of this motion. I nominated our Premier for the job because I respected him. And I believed that he could do the job. I still believe those qualities are there, but that he just needs to get back on track.

I hope our Premier can view this as an opportunity to reset and to exercise the responsibility and authority in front of him, and to finally look for alternative perspective beyond those of just a select few senior officials that he works with.

I hope he will work harder than ever, to implement the change that we were all elected in this House to do. And I want to say, that I will commit to doing my part with all the Members of this House. That is why I support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is a day where I am both unhappy as well as being joyful, and I am feeling both emotions currently. First of all, I want to express my feelings of unhappiness here.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we don't always start from the same spot nor do we always agree during our sittings. When members are not here for sittings, and we are unable to travel to Iqaluit to deal with issues and several members felt slighted when a ministerial portfolio was stripped without our involvement. This is what makes me unhappy.

If we had been able to discuss this as a whole, then it would have been easier to deal with. On the other hand, what I am joyful about relates to the motion we will be voting on, as we will use longstanding knowledge, so in that regard, I am happy. Our fellow residents will understand that members are working hard to keep this government accountable as well as to our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, as the government if we are not on the same page, it will lead to fracturing of the government as we will lose our strength as a consensus government and this can happen to any person where collaboration and cooperation are required where fracturing can take place even if it is a government, with seemingly unending strength or even weakness.

Mr. Speaker, this motion speaks to providing opportunity to allow members to censure this government due to requirements to follow the law, to respect other people and to not misuse authority as a government, or even as fellow citizens. I believe we need to stop putting each other down.

Mr. Speaker, unity and working together as a government in the House is expected. We need to support each other as regular members and as cabinet members by working together.

Regular members have been voted in by our constituents and we have rules and protocols that we have to follow. This is what our ancestors left for us. They left these things to us so we could use them on the positive side to help other Inuit and to work on what is expected of us by our people.

Mr. Speaker, let's use our ancestor's values today so that officials can work together in helping each other. We are the leaders today. Let's help each other within our environment, within our community, so we can make a path for our younger generation, because the youth are listening to us and they have expectations of us.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to this motion.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier I will do my best to address the issues that have been raised. One of them is the whole cabinet is being censured because the cabinet was behind my decision to strip Ms. Angnakak of her portfolios.

That is correct. A Premier should not operate on their own. They have to have the backing of cabinet, and I talked to every minister for their backing whether my decision was appropriate.

I am the spokesperson for the executive committee, the council, as Premier, and that's the decision I made and the two members who moved the motion are correct; I was supported by it.

On the other matter about the member said there was a breach, there were breaches, and a breach is a breach and they should be treated exactly the same. There is accountability. As I stated to the member earlier this week, yes there is accountability, but there are different levels of accountability depending on what the situation is.

I will speak first of Minister Joanase. Yes, there was a breach from his office. The breach was done by one of his staff. He did not know about the breach until it was done, and he dealt with it and he took responsibility. He wrote each one of you a letter. You have a letter from Minister Joanase stating the fact that it happened, stating the fact that he was sorry. This was roughly maybe a month ago.

I did not hear from any one of the members raising the issue. I don't know if Minister Joanase did or not, but the issue was not raised to me if that was insufficient for what he did...sorry, insufficient that he just apologized. He owned up to his mistake, and he said he would take whatever consequences are issued to him. I did not hear an outcry, so I thought that issue was dealt with and done.

As for Ms. Angnakak up there, I see it as completely different. To this day, she said she did not breach confidentiality. She did not breach her oath of office. She had a confidential cabinet document that she read out on TV and I am not going to be here to say "he said, she said." I am just going to stick to facts. It's a difficult situation, and like Ms. Angnakak said, it makes it hard for me too.

Because she did nominate me for Premier, and that makes everything all the harder but I was voted in by the majority of the people sitting around this table to take the Premiership, to make decisions, to make difficult decisions.

And, a lot of them may not be very popular but I have to make these decisions and I make them with the best information that I have. It's bad that we are put in a situation, and like Ms. Angnakak said, there are so many other pressing issues that we have to deal with here in Nunavut.

But, we're here because of this situation and if Ms. Angnakak had not breached confidentiality, we would not be here. We would be dealing with issues that we need to deal within, within Nunavut. Like she said, shortage of houses, shortage of staff, suicides, all this stuff she said, I absolutely agree with her.

We should be dealing with that, but we're side-tracked and this is quite the issue too, we have to deal with it. All forms of government swear an oath, and they have confidentiality that they cannot share, certain documents that belong to cabinet that are confidential to cabinet until it's appropriate to come out with the decisions.

It wasn't a rash decision that I made, and it wasn't an easy decision. But I just want to reiterate the facts here. These are the facts. The facts are, at the time, Ms. Angnakak asked for advice on how to prepare a response to a question that she was anticipating in the House. Yes, she did come to see me, yes, I did redirect her to my staff.

But at no time, was she authorized to leak any documents or publicly read off the confidential cabinet document. My colleague, Ms. Angnakak was provided with suggestions on how to prepare statements and how to ensure her staff could assist in preparing for the question of the day.

We did not tell her she couldn't talk about the issue. We just told her, this is advice that was given to cabinet; therefore she could talk about it, but not the specifics. She was given that advice. And she said she had the document in the House, yes, I saw her with the document up in my office when she came to go see me and ask me what I could say.

I didn't see the document here; I sit right next to her. That's correct. But I did not see the document, the confidential document. I was reading other stuff here, until I realized what she was reading was very familiar and I looked up.

And as everyone here might know now, that was a red piece of paper. We normally don't have red piece of paper here with us and that was a confidential document she had. And her response went beyond what had been agreed to by cabinet.

She indicated that the decisions had already been made by the government on those elements related to housing. Those decisions have not been made by cabinet yet. Those are areas where we expect to provide more in-depth information and be able to ultimately make our decisions as a consensus government.

The stuff she read, those are the stuff we were going to decide on. It's confidential cabinet document. I know you guys are probably tired of me saying that. But, that is a fact. We have confidential cabinet documents, and they are confidential for a reason. And by taking this approach in our House, our colleague Ms. Angnakak broke her oath of office.

We all swore that when we became ministers...I'll read it. "I swear or affirm that I will keep confidential all matters addressed in the executive council or that come to my knowledge by reason of being a member of executive council, and that I will not disclose any such matter to any person other than a member of executive council, except as authorized by the executive council or as required in the lawful execution of my duties."

That is the oath that all of us ministers swore to. I want to be clear that she alluded to that... . She's a female minister so she would be treated other than if the breach was made by a male minister. I want to assure Ms. Angnakak, all you members, all Nunavummiut that this is not a gender issue. I treat all of my ministers equally.

As I stated earlier, I don't look at a male minister or female minister. I look at a minister that is there to do their job, that all the Members of this Legislative Assembly put them there to do, a job, and I would hope that all of you, when you choose to put a person into executive council, that you put them there because they're there to do a job and because you believe they can do the job; not because they're a male or a female.

That should not come into the question. As I said earlier, at no point in our conversation before the opening of the House did I ask her to breach confidentiality. At no point. It was a decision that was made by Ms. Angnakak.

What I'm saying is when she broke her oath of office, she broke the trust of our colleagues. She compromised the ability of this government to build up trust needed to take on responsibilities that our constituents have elected us to do.

We need to ensure transparency is carried out. I absolutely agree with that and I've been questioned and told on that. That is why I have no issues being upfront and taking this action. We want to be transparent.

The reason for what I did when I did has been transparent. I have stated it here publicly. Our team, we have to be able to trust one another, and what I mean by trust; if something is confidential, as a team what we discuss in cabinet and RFDs are, requests for decisions, that they stay confidential until the time that it's appropriate for these decisions that we make for the officials to put into action what cabinet has decided.

In closing, I would like to thank Ms. Angnakak for her hard work. She is a hard worker. She works very very hard. There is no doubt about that, and she is very passionate in whatever role is given to her, but I feel I'm put in a corner when confidentiality is breached, and to that extent that I was put in here to do actions.

As the Member for Aggu stated, the elders say we have to set people straight. He's right. I have to keep cabinet in line. I have to make sure that cabinet is set straight too. I thank the strong words of the elders that he used, that he passed on here to us.

We all have a job to do, and I have a job to do. At times it's hard to do the Premier's job, but I was elected to be the Premier and I thank everyone that had their trust in me and I hope they still will have trust in me that I will be a good leader.

Ms. Angnakak stated earlier that she doesn't think that I'm the person that can lead, but that I can go back to being the leader she said I am capable of. This is all part of the leadership. Leadership means you're leading. Not everyone will agree with the decisions any leader makes.

I, as a Premier, will never satisfy every one of the members. I will never satisfy all Nunavummiut, but I'm going to do my best to lead this Assembly to get the results that we all want, and we all agreed on *Turaaqtavut* and that is our mandate, and as I stated

earlier, and I've heard that here before, we all want to leave Nunavut in a better state than when we got elected back in October. I am committed to that.

The executive council we're a team we work as a team and that's how it has to be. We are also a team with all the MLAs here and you guys are all part of the team.

We make decisions here right, we do, as the executive council and we take the decisions to you for your approval. It's debated. Because everyone knows all the decisions being made in order for us to act on it we need money and you guys are there to approve the budget that you agree on certain stuff we get the money and we go on.

I'm sorry that we're at this stage here but we have to deal with it and just like to assure Nunavummiut that I'm here to lead for all of Nunavummiut. Not all will be able with how I lead and that is just given and I can't go into all the details of why I make my decisions when I do because we have confidentiality issues.

I just hope that as we vote to censure the government and to the motion and in the motion it says because I treated two ministers for the same breach so differently. Yes there were two breaches but that is the only thing that is the same the word breach. All the other reasons why it was breached are so different.

These are two complete separate issues and I thank everyone for hearing me out and take my comments in and use that to make your decision to vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To say the minimum. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this past September it came to my attention that there was a breach of confidentiality that occurred from my office when a draft internal document was obtained by external parties. When I was made aware of this breach I undertook an internal investigation to determine the source of the breach and this individual is no longer working with my office.

I would like to assure my colleagues that every action has been taken to advise staff of processes around confidential information and to ensure no such event happens again. I immediately informed my colleagues accordingly and subsequently sent all members of this House a letter regarding what happened.

I again would like to apologize to all Members of the House and I take responsibility for the matter pertains to the breach of confidentiality from my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak to the motion. I would like to start off by saying that I can differentiate between the two different breaches that have occurred but I did not agree with how the approaches in discipline have come about.

I appreciate Minister Joanasie's letter, it was a sincere apology was fitting but to this date we the Legislative Assembly still does not know if Minister Joanasie was disciplined over his breach of confidentiality that had occurred within his office and neither does the public. The discipline that took place upon Ms. Angnakak, or the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, which was immediately, swiftly, and publicly done in the House while the breach that occurred in Minister Joanasie's office was not brought up in the House until after Ms. Angnakak was stripped of her portfolio.

It's the two different approaches to the discipline or lack thereof that I do not agree with, and if the Premier or Minister Joanasie had mentioned the breach in the House on the first sitting day, then this topic of this and that, or sorry, the first breach versus the second breach and how the two different approaches to them would not be discussed here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. I have no more names on my list. My apologies. To the motion. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't planning to say anything but we have to talk. I know we're all under a lot of stress and I have to recognize, as we work together we are not always going to agree.

(interpretation ends) There has been a phrase that is used over the years that says there are two sides to every story, and I always say there are three sides. There is a bit of truth from both, and that's my phrase because there is some truth to both.

I stand here because I made a decision on an incident, and one incident alone. The decision that came before me did not have anything to do with the other breach. It was on one breach alone, and I need to state that. I think it's important.

I wonder if that first breach hadn't happened, would we be having this discussion, and I'm doing my due diligence as an MLA standing here because we have many needs, and yes, sometimes I'm sure my colleagues think I get overly passionate because I have "unflavour" of the day where I talk about many needs of Nunavummiut.

It's not about the red herring. It's not about the red document. If we're talking about IQs, why is there a motion then because that's going against I think the IQ principles if we're talking about it.

I made a decision on one item; not between the two. It was a decision asked of me, and I just felt I had to say that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. I have no more names on my list. The mover of the motion, Ms. Towtongie, will have final say. If she wants to then this is her opportunity. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion that I made does not refer to any females or males. It refers to *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* because not having double standards is an Inuk law, and they are both elected ministers, and many people in Nunavut have been feeling that our ministers are being controlled by staff, workers, and the electors are not staff. Whenever something happens, as ministers or MLAs, we don't take responsibility, but we can say that it was the staff's mistake, "The staff made me do it." We have to take responsibility if we're the minister or the MLA. We have to take responsibility because we're the leaders. That's it. We are elected people.

I don't want to talk about this anymore; I want to tell the people of Nunavut that this is not a gender issue. They have to be able to depend on us and we have to be transparent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If I understood correctly, she asked for a recorded vote. We will now be voting. All those in favour of the motion, please stand and remain standing until I have called your name.

Ms. Towtongie. You can now sit down.

Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Kusugak.

Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Main.

Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Quassa.

Ms. Kamingoak.

Mr. Qirngnuq.

Thank you. All those opposed to the motion, please stand and remain standing until I call your name.

Ms. Sheutiapik.

Ms. Ehaloak.

Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Hicke.

Mr. Akeeagok.

Thank you. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

Ms. Nakashuk.

Thank you. All those in favour of the motion are 14, all those opposed of the motion are 6, and those abstaining are 1. Therefore the motion is carried. Thank you.

I'm sorry. I was given the wrong tally of numbers. Let me say it again correctly. All those in favour of the motion are 13, all those opposed of the motion are 6, and all those abstaining are 1. Therefore the motion is carried. Thank you.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Motions. Let's proceed. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act – Second Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Act, be read for the second time. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* by giving the Qulliq Energy Corporation the ability to purchase power by removing the requirement of permission granted for major capital projects to be in the form of an order. It also updates terminology and removes spent provisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed, please raise your hand. The motion is carried and Bill 12 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 9, 10, and 11 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 14 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Further, I ask my colleagues to stay until the documents are prepared so that we will proceed with Committee of the Whole as soon as we can.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with. Bills 2, 9, 10, and 11. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 9, and the capital main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and if time permits, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capita) Act, 2019-2020 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak, if you have any witnesses you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Several, Mr. Chairman, actually two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Kusugak, for the record, if you can please reintroduce your witnesses? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Mr. Chairman, is Mr. Terry Audla, the President and CEO of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my left is Mr. Curtis Allaby, the acting Vice-President and CFO of the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak, and welcome to your officials. When we left off on Friday, we were dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital budget, and I had three names on my list, and I will name that so that you know where you are when it comes to questioning and whether you want to change your mind about asking questions or if you want your name added to the list of questioners.

I had Mr. Lightstone, Mr. Main and Ms. Towtongie. So, we will start off with Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is going to be with regard to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's purchase of public housing units. It's my understanding that Nunavut Housing Corporation has assumed ownership over homes from which homeowners no longer wish to be homeowners anymore.

I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide more detail on the policy behind home purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some procedures that the housing corporation uses in terms of whether the department or the corporation wants to purchase private homes from homeowners across Nunavut.

There are some steps and procedures that they do follow. It is something that we do on occasion and maybe to give detail on that, if I could through you, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Audla clarify the procedures we do use in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question as well. We do have a policy but the policy requires that we have the individual exhaust all local options as to whether or not they could sell it on the private market based on the understanding that the housing corporation will not necessarily offer a fair market value based on whatever the market may be within that community.

At the same time, it's probably best for the individual to try and exhaust their options locally first to ensure that they actually get more value for whatever home that it is that they're giving up or putting up for sale, based on the fact that the housing corporation will only look at the structural value and not necessarily the market value. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I would just like a little bit more clarification on the policies surrounding NHC assuming ownership of an individual's home.

For a specific example, if a homeowner can no longer maintain their home, would NHC purchase the home and then allow them to remain in the home as a public housing unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. It gives an opportunity to clarify that situation.

Mr. Chairman, situations like my colleague is describing does happen on occasion in a community, and if it happens in a community where there is really no housing market, the corporation will ask that they seek a certain amount of time to see if they could sell it locally, or sell it to anyone interested in purchasing it.

If that is exhausted and there is no interest to purchase it, the corporation will purchase at a fair value, and depending on the situation, it becomes the property of the local housing association and if the individual by staying in the house might be over-housed, the association might talk about moving the individual or whoever is in the home, if they would like to move into a unit that is more suitable for them. That is often discussed between the homeowner and the local housing association of whom takes ownership of the house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that clarifies the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. That leads me into my next question.

Iqaluit has approximately 400 individuals on the wait-list and from what I heard, the average wait time is a considerable amount of years. Now, for those 400 individuals on the list, they have very few options and most often it's couch-surfing or being forced to find their own accommodations elsewhere.

My question would be: if those 400 individuals on the wait-list were to choose to construct their own, let's say, tiny home, would the corporation be willing to acquire or assume homeownership of those assets and add them to their public housing portfolio? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are so many parameters and standards that have to be met when we start going down that path. There are building codes that have to be met. There are standards that have to be met in terms of electrical, heating, insulation, and so on. There are building codes and standards that have to be met in order to even begin to talk about that. It depends on where the house is located. Is it on a lot? There's so much to that.

In a nutshell, we haven't gone that route, but if we were to walk down that route, we would have to make sure that all these rules, regulations, and procedures to ensure that the home that the association may, at the end of the day, take ownership of, it has to be fit into a usable, viable home. That might take some time.

It's just really hard to answer a yes or no on that particular question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the necessity for those standards, but I do recognize that there are a lot of individuals who are in those difficult situations where they're forced to live in whatever accommodations they can find. That also includes shacks, which are unfortunately substandard and most likely would not meet the minimum requirements for public housing units, but they are still forced to live in those, for lack of a better word, shacks or tiny homes that they have constructed on their own.

I think that the Nunavut Housing Corporation could do more for those individuals who have constructed their own accommodations. I was wondering if the minister has ever looked into how the corporation can do more to make those tiny homes more safe to live in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the housing corporation releases houses or homes to the local housing authority for them to lease to the public, they have to have standards. They have to have minimum codes because, at the end of the day, they become ultimately responsible. I think, at this point, no, we can't do that.

Having said that, the corporation is constantly looking at ways to try to get as much houses as we can with the funds that we are allocated. That's not to say that those are the things we will talk about; far from that. I think that we need to have these discussions and explore ways of being able to get standards out there, if it's communicating with people who are in shacks and stuff to say, "Here are some standards you live by," if it means communicating with the local municipal councils or city councils or what have you and see if we can get some open lots to areas where people could have closer access to public cleaning places or public utilities. I think those are some kinds of discussions we should have and I encourage to have because I assure you, the way we are doing it right now, it's

not going to decrease the 400 homeless who are couch surfing in Iqaluit, and so many more across the territory.

We are constantly trying to figure out how we can do that. It's an endless battle that we honestly are losing and we'd like to figure out how we could turn the corner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is my last question. It seems like every year there are several shack fires across this territory, not just in Iqaluit. These are not just your typical shacks. These are people's homes. People live in these shacks and occasionally people die in these shack fires.

Any loss of life is considerable. I was just wondering if there is anything that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can do to make these shacks safer to reduce the likelihood of shack fires, whether it be connecting them to the grid and allowing them to use electric heating sources. There has to be something that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can do. That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear the frustration in your voice, but unfortunately that is beyond the mandate of the corporation. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. The minister stated earlier that there are different construction costs. (interpretation ends) I'll switch to English here. Sorry.

The different capital costs for the different types of units, I wonder if you could give us a ballpark figure on each: single family dwelling, duplex, five-plex, ten-plex, and beyond. I would just like to understand how much cost-savings we have when we go to a larger building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I do believe I did a written question asking these kinds of prices and they couldn't give me a price for a single family dwelling at the time. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It differs. If you're looking at a single family dwelling, a three bedroom let's say, you're looking at about \$600,000 approximately. A multiplex, you're looking at about the same thing, around there per unit, \$300,000 or \$400,000 or \$500,000 per unit. Again, it depends where you are and some communities are more expensive to build in, and stuff like that, but that's about

how much it costs per unit. Where you save is in the maintenance of facilities and stuff like that. That's a guesstimate, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know that we've had discussions about this in the past and that right now the approach seems to be the five-plex. The five-plex is it. That's the best solution right now.

Has the housing corporation looked at stripping down the five-plex design and making it even simpler than it is now in terms of as an avenue to reducing capital costs? This is based on a conversation I had with a contractor who indicated that the design could be made simpler and in a way that would reduce the capital costs and I wonder if that is something that has been looked at. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the corporation is always trying to look at better ways of having or dealing with housing. I know at one point, there was a lot of concern about single exits, and now they have two exits and you know, they're finding ways to make it easier and more user friendly.

And easier to construct and maintain, and it differs in the communities, like I'll use Rankin Inlet for an example. There's five-plexes where there is a maintenance room which is a big empty room because there's no water and sewage in the apartment because it's an utilidor.

We have this big room that could add to the neighbouring bedroom size or living room size, so there are those tweaks and stuff that need to be done constantly. So, yes we do look at making adjustments where we need to. Right now the five-plex seems to be it and tweaking that at the moment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak and for the record, not all of the housing corporation's five plex designs have two entrances, they do have a design that they still use that only has one entrance. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for your written question and what not on this topic. The minister mentioned tweaking the design, I guess can he confirm whether that includes what I was referring to in terms of stripping down or simplifying the design more to reduce your capital costs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're looking at, and I don't know what you mean by "stripping down" a building, but you know, at the end of the

day, you have to keep in mind the overall design and the electrical and mechanical and the overall operation of the building. There is some that can be done, but I don't know exactly what or where we're going with stripping it down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess to clarify, you know when I refer to stripping down I mean simplifying. Simplifying the design with a specific focus on reducing your capital costs and if possible, making your maintenance easier, but I'll just leave that alone for now.

I want to move on to a question on the plans to build a new LHO complex in Arviat. I know that we don't know where it will be yet, but I visited the local housing organization in Arviat recently and outside of Iqaluit, that is, I believe the biggest stock of public housing in the territory, 455 public housing units in Arviat. If I'm correct, they have about 14 staff working out of that complex, and they spoke to me regarding some of the issues they're encountering with their current complex.

Training their staff is difficult, they have flooding in the vehicle storage area, and they have leaks in the roof. There are issues with tenant confidentiality because the building they are in is very old and the walls are paper-thin. There are also space issues in terms of jamming more than one employee into an office, and so I guess and know an evaluation has been done.

I guess what I am looking for is: what are the top three criteria that the department is going to take into account when deciding where to build the next local housing complex? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I thought Sanikiluaq's complex would be done before Arviat's, but I will let the housing corporation decide that. I can tell you that it is equally as horror stories in our community as well, so with that, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Maybe after you and Mr. Main arm-wrestle?

All kidding aside, the three of the main issues I guess they look at is the safety of the workspace environment, the space available for the work to be done, and the inventory and the ability to keep the inventory secure and able to store it inside. Those are three of the key parameters that they will be looking, Mr. Chairman, of the seven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I trust that the housing corporation will take all of these issues into account and make the best decision for where the next complex will go. Just to clarify on that new LHO complex where there

is design work being done, does the design work include fenced-in areas? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't look at that. It just literally looks at the footprint of the infrastructure, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to shift to asking a few questions about homeownership. I'm just about done here.

I noticed that in your most recent annual report, in terms of where the public housing tenants are, in terms of their annual income, according to this information there are roughly 700 public housing tenants that are making in excess of \$80,000 a year.

In my mind, those are the prime candidates to become homeowners, but we all know that it is very difficult to become a homeowner, especially if there is nothing available to purchase in your home community. It's a very big headache in terms of trying to find a contractor, trying to get your materials, trying to get a mortgage.

I know there is a review of the homeownership programs going on right now. Can the minister confirm if this homeownership review will include looking at owner build programs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Audla, please go ahead.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the question. On top of the homeownership program review, we've also included the aspect of the feasibility assessment as to whether or not there would be the likelihood of success in any community, and all communities within Nunavut, as to whether or not they can become homeowners, be it through different methodologies.

As a part of that assessment we'll be looking at the aspects of the types of build, be it modular, be it stick built, be it other means of being able to put together four walls and a roof and what the costs may be. As a part of that assessment we hope to have all of that information within a compact report as to whether there would be a likelihood of success, why or why not, and at the same time trying to determine what can increase, or go about increasing the likelihood of success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that answer. In terms of the timeline for that review, when will I as a regular member, get to look at that homeownership report and try and digest it and hopefully see some action on the homeownership file? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're hoping that early in the winter of 2019 we'll be able to share that with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to put in a good word for the owner-build programs. I'm sure you guys get sick of hearing about the HAP program, which has to be the all-time, most popular program. It was in the NWT days, if I believe, but it seems to me from an outsider's perspective, if you combine the housing shortage with the high unemployment rate in a community such as mine, this might be a very beneficial way to go for the right client. That's just a comment.

The only last question I have is, when it comes to public housing, on the substantiation sheet you have this comparison where you compare public housing with a shelter bed, with putting somebody in jail, and I don't think we would put somebody in jail for being homeless, but it's just a comparison on the cost per bed per day. I wonder if the housing corporation has done any comparison on...do you have any numbers on homeowners? For a homeowner, what is the cost to the housing corporation per day for somebody how owns their own home on average? Is that a calculation that has been done? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation hasn't done that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What I'm trying to get at is that this substantiation sheet shows that public housing is a good investment. It's the cheapest way that we can give people a place to live, cheaper than a shelter and cheaper than jail, obviously. I have heard the message from the housing corporation that what we are doing now in terms of public housing is not sustainable; we just can't keep up.

In terms of helping solve the housing crisis, I would like to see a calculation done for homeownership. If it's possible, you could use, let's say, the idea of a base grant that

you're going to give to homeowners and included in there is one of the alternatives to public housing because that's what it is. An alternative to public housing is homeownership, and I think that's something we need to invest in. It's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Next on my list I have Mr. Qirngnuq. Please go ahead.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I have a short question. I know that you're getting tired of hearing this, but as the minister stated earlier, a proper office or the LHO complex, as the member for Arviat, it's part of my colleague's question. You also think about we want our tenants to be in a safe place that you can live properly at.

In your opening comments on page 3, they have \$14 million in total for public housing modernization and improvement and also for mould remediation, but the money spent on mould remediation should be lessening that amount. As it states in the opening statement, what about an old unit that will be remediated for mould? The units that were built are about 50 years old. My colleagues had been saying that these units are aging and it is already problematic to Inuit, as it is becoming painful. I wonder what thoughts have been considered as to the outcome, after the censure as it seems that they will receive a warning obviously, or if other ideas have been considered and that is what I would like to understand, hence my question on the matter, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, you are quite clear in your question, Mr. Qirngnuq, as many housing units in the communities are becoming very old and dilapidated to a point where constant maintenance is causing the sizes to become smaller in those units.

When they add materials to the interior, and yes, some units have mould so that has to be cleaned. We are currently reviewing the situation especially in how to deal with housing units that are too old, as it would be better to remove them and construct new units on those lots.

However, even though that is part of our planning, sometimes the LHOs in the communities don't want to release those units, as the replacement units will not increase the number of units, as an example, if unused housing units are removed, then new units could be constructed in that lot, and if we were to contemplate that it would not mean any additional units if we use that approach as we would just be replacing old units.

For some communities, these old units are still habitable or can be used for other purpose which is why some LHOs don't want to release the units. However, we are continuing to

hold discussions on dealing with replacing units past their useful lives that you referenced.

That is the situation in the majority of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response on that issue, as it is now much clearer. I want to move to a different topic, also in the opening address, where it speaks to LHOs in the smaller communities.

The foundations were laid over 20 years ago, and they are quite old. With that length of usage, the wooden foundations become weak, and a lot of work is required to renovate these units, at least in some cases.

I wonder how many communities are facing that situation where they either need to replace their workspace or storage sheds. Which communities require this type of evaluation? Hopefully that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of the local housing organizations workspaces or complexes require replacements, and one community is getting their complex renovated, and that is Baker Lake I believe.

However, with respect to the other communities, all of them practically, yes, require new complexes or workspaces within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister know of, or perhaps his officials may be aware of communities that due to the lack of resources or workspace face difficulties?

I am just thinking off the top of my head, as I am asking the question to determine if a private unit or private home that is no longer in use has been converted to a workspace? Here I mean a workspace for their maintenance workers, as they require workspace to deal with maintenance issues in the smaller communities? Hopefully I was clear in my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the question from the member. Yes, some of the LHOs use old units no longer in use as offices or as a workspace, and I am aware of that although I can't recall them at this time.

I can't recall which communities have done that to meet their challenges, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it seems quite obvious here that some communities need workspaces or complexes.

It would behoove us to contemplate this in the near future, and to allow this to be utilized as a proper workspace will result in better maintenance of housing units in our smaller communities, which don't have extra units to convert to workspace as some communities have no spare units. This isn't a question, but rather just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on my list is Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, I just have one question. (interpretation) It is in regard to my colleague, Mr. Main's comments on the HAP Housing Program. They were the most popular of all the homeownership programs.

We hear in some other communities that we have lung disease or lung problems occurring because of overcrowding. I encourage the minister and I know that the housing corporation is working hard to alleviate the housing shortage.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, (interpretation ends) earlier this year the NHC issued a request for proposals for the lease of public and staff housing units in all Nunavut communities. (interpretation) Did all of the community reply to this request. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps through you Mr. Chairman, I could have the person on my left, Mr. Allaby, respond.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Allaby.

Mr. Allaby: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. In response to your question the answer would be no. We haven't received a response for every community in Nunavut in regard to our request for proposals for staff housing and public housing leases.

I don't have the information with me, but it wasn't every community. It was definitely the minority of communities that we did receive a response for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, for the response.

That leads up to my next question. Of those communities that submitted a proposal, have you followed through in terms of signing any agreements with them? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to say that yes we have followed through with some of them on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. How many of those proposals went to public housing and how many to staff housing? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that detail of information with us, but I would be more than happy to share it as soon as I can make it available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I move on to my next person with questions I'll ask a question of my own if could. When we were talking about housing designs and whatnot, several years ago when you did SIP program it proved that it was more costly to do that because of the cost of shipping these panels into our communities.

Has the housing corporation ever given any thought to maybe having the mould for making these panels in the communities so that you could just ship in stacks of plywood or whatever the panels are made out of, and the Styrofoam insulation in drums so that these panels could be made locally. You would have a lot less shipping costs I would think and you would still end up with a panel type housing. Has that ever been considered? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, at this point we haven't considered that option. Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister, staff. We're always talking about people, young folks, young couples, young families being homeless and they are the most ones that are doing the couch-surfing home to home. I'm just wondering; in the past you have built elders homes, I believe. I'm just wondering if you would be experimenting with the idea of doing the same thing for the young folks, like building a ten-plex just for young couples, couples with one child or anybody like that. I

think it would alleviate a lot of young people overcrowding at their parents' place and stuff like that. I'm just wondering if you ever had the idea of maybe thinking about something like that in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the units that we put out right now to the communities, we consult with the communities in terms of what kind of units that they need, and what kind the community is seeking, if it's a one-, two-, or three-bedroom unit. There are units out there that are single-bedroom units in some of the ten-plexes and five-plexes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. That still doesn't...you're right. We're having problems trying to get a lot of housing. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital project substantiation sheet for new public housing construction indicates that "eliminating the housing shortage remains beyond the Government of Nunavut's means."

The 2018 federal budget announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$400 million over 10 years to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit. This is in addition to the \$240 million over 10 years announced in budget 2017 to support housing in Nunavut. Additional funding was provided for Inuit housing.

Have you met with the federal Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to discuss housing issues in Nunavut and, if so, can you update the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was the minister of housing last spring before I was just reappointed last week, I was in a meeting with the minister of the housing corporation or infrastructure and I spoke with him briefly and discussed the need to have the Inuit of Nunavut included in those discussions. The discussion didn't take that long, but he heard my concerns. I also understand that the president of Nunavut Tunngavik, through Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, had discussions with the federal minister regarding the need to include Nunavut Inuit in those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. This will be my last question. What is the status of the new national housing strategy and how realistic is it to expect significant new federal investments for public housing construction in Nunavut over the next five years? Why I ask that is that I think in the news last week, the federal government was giving \$2 billion

to Mumbai for housing. I'm just dreaming, but I'm wondering if we can get something like that, or do you know of anything like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. I know that we're in bilateral discussions with the federal minister on that matter. Maybe if I could have, through you, Mr. Chairman, the president respond further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. As you mentioned, the national housing strategy dollars that were announced in the billions of dollars in different streams, we as the Nunavut territory, we're identified or it was announced in the budget two years ago that we would receive \$240 million over 10 years, but we're hoping that through our bilateral discussions, we would see where Nunavut fits within those other categories that were identified for the other pots of money. As the minister suggested, in the bilateral discussions, we hope to have more details as to where Nunavut would fall with respect to more funding.

The unfortunate aspect of what has been announced by the federal government is that because the Nunavut territory has so few options as to the type of housing and so many gaps, such as either condos or co-ops or affordable units on the private market aspect of it, where public housing becomes a catch-all for all those that would need to receive housing, we didn't necessarily fit into a lot of the categories. What we're trying to do is to see what we can do within the territory as well as working with the federal government as to where we could actually seek more funding for the purposes of increasing or filling those gaps.

As it stands right now, it's too soon to say. We've had discussions with Inuit organizations as well as other stakeholders through a solutions lab with the CMHC as well and to see where we can try to access more of those dollars, but our hopes are that the federal government would actually see the dire housing crisis we're in right now and to see what we can do to actually access more money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one more question, just going back to staff housing, I'm just wondering...we're always talking about staff housing not being filled in communities. I'm just asking a question. How long do you hold them as staff housing before you can turn them over to the local housing associations or organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. They cycle through. There is no end date in terms of how long we would hold them for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister.

(interpretation ends) Let me just follow up on Mr. Akoak's questions on those staff housings. He asked about those unused units of how many were being... . Here's my question: how many of those unused staff housing units were transferred to public housing and how many were there last year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I could have, through you, Mr. Allaby respond, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Allaby: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the question. In response to the first part of the question, there were eight staff housing units that were transferred into the public housing portfolio in the last fiscal year. Our current information indicates that there are 149 vacant staff housing units across the territory at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Allaby. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the answer. In regard to an own-to-home program for those staff working for the government, it says here in your letter regarding Mr. Rumbolt's questions, across the territory, there was a large pool of aging units that will need replacement within the near future. How many are being considered to be replaced or renewed under this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're currently going to go through an assessment to take a look at those numbers, and timelines of that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I will expect that information then? Now, the rent-to-own program where its condominiums and in your

letter of expectations or something for 2018-19, it states here that you are going to be looking at different condos or different housing that staff can try to buy.

Now, with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, what's been happening with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Audla respond to that through you, Mr. Chairman, please and thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. We are always reviewing those people who are interested in getting their own homes, and people who are requesting for assistance from the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Along with government employees, we know government workers are the main wage earners in the communities, and if they're interested in buying their own unit we help them find out what the price would be, and we look at units that are set aside for the Nunavut government's staff and also public housing.

We're looking to see how we can improve that and trying to always see how many units are available in the community to do that. People should be aware that once you get a home of your own, you should know what it costs to maintain it. They can also, which we are trying to see as the NHC, request assistance as we look to help people further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for explaining that very clearly. This isn't a real question, but comments were made about this earlier. Back in 1980, people got their own homes through a program where they were able to build their own homes.

I know you mentioned this earlier, the fact that you would look at that program again. If you could reintroduce this program like the old HAP program, I believe it can work in Nunavut if you could reintroduce the program because I was told by someone who is interested in doing that, if the program was made available again, the HAP program.

And, Mr. Lightstone talked about it as well, so I would like more information on that. Will you be able to look into this again? That will be my final question. I hope I made sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can look at everything again, but we have to remember building houses and building codes from the past and today, like for electricity, insulation, and fuel tanks, many of the codes have changed. We have to make sure people are aware of those when we are looking for better solutions.

At the end of the day I think we want to see more houses being available for the people of Nunavut and with fewer lack of housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, (interpretation ends) minister and staff. (interpretation) Along the lines of what I commented on earlier, I'm not sure if you would know or if it would be available, but in 2017-18 how many units did the NHC pay for vacant staff housing for the whole year in Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question.

When you asked I checked into it. They are under contract. It's under a specific contract and we cannot divulge that information because of the contract agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm asking is on March 31, 2016, for the expenditures for the year for the GN, \$169,200. For 2017-18, how much did you use in that budget line? Is that available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) So I properly understand the question, but numbers are you referring to? Can you clarify your question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm reading from is the Contract Procurement Activity Report for the whole year, year ending March 31, 2016. It's on page 14 under Leases and Public Housing and Staff Housing for the year ending March 31, 2016.

(interpretation) It states here how much the housing corporation paid in leases for the whole year. Are the figures available for 2016-17 as to how much the housing corporation paid in leases for vacant units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What you're asking about, that has not been presented here yet. I would like to table that before the end of this sitting. I believe I will be able to table that at the end of the sitting, but it has not been tabled yet, so I can't talk about it right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will expect to see that, especially what I mentioned. As of today, there are eight empty staff housing units, and I'm sure they cost money for maintenance and they need fuel as well, and other expenses attached to it throughout the year.

The five staff housing units that are being proposed and then there are these eight that are vacant. It's really strange, and there is another six-plex that is owned by Northview. I don't know if the Government of Nunavut is paying for that, or if the company is paying for that.

If the government is paying for those, we are looking at 14 vacant units. That's why I'm asking why five staff housing units to put them into Pangnirtung again when there haven't been any new public housing units built in the last eight years. How do you justify that? That's what I would really like to understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From our understanding, it is like this: right now in Pangnirtung, of the vacant units there are five staffing housing units, and four that are being held for positions that will be filled. That is our understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course there is going to be a difference between what we hear from the Nunavut Housing Corporation and what I heard at the local housing authority meeting I had before I came down here.

The government pays for the operations and maintenance of the empty units. If we look at the conservation officer, the position hasn't been filled since April 2017 and I'm sure that empty unit is being paid for by the government.

Looking at those positions, before they are filled there is a house that is allotted to all those positions. We have a shortage of housing and there is a couple that has been waiting seven years for a house. Then there is another couple who were moved from one unit so that they could retrofit the house. Their one bedroom alone is full of furniture, and then again, on top of that... .

(interpretation ends) I don't understand how this is being done in terms of having to see empty units being allocated to GN staff housing but Nunavut Housing Corporation states this is how many are vacant.

As tax payers, we're paying for that, or people who are working are paying for empty units. (interpretation) I would definitely like to have you look at this again. With these five staff housing units for 2019-2020, please review it again.

The four-plex has been empty for 10 years, and it was just recently given to the local housing authority after 10 years. (interpretation ends) How much did the government spend on that? That's why I am trying to be level headed to understand why you guys are requesting five units. I'm sorry. (interpretation) I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't think there was a question there, but Minister Kusugak, if you want to reply, please go ahead.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree with you more. (interpretation) The shortage of housing is always going to show up. As long as there are empty staff housing units, we try to provide staff housing to the government employees and ensure that those few positions have housing allotted to them.

We make a request to Human Resources and they indicate that this is how many houses should be built in this particular community. Once that position is filled, then there has to be a house that goes along with it, so that's how we come up with the number of houses that need to be built.

We don't allocate the number of houses that are going to be built in a community; we try to support the requests that are made by human resources. I agree with you, we have to work closely together with the government organizations and the communities as well.

Look at what we can do with those vacant units that have been vacant for very long time. We agree on that, and I agree with everything you've commented on but, it's quite hard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Kusugak. Mr. Akoak

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just the one question, a short one for the viewing public from my community of Gjoa Haven, can you tell them how much housing has been allocated to the community of Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Just bear with me for a minute, Mr. Chairman please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have ten new public housing units, Mr. Chairman, and five staff units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Kusugak. We are on page L-3, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for recognizing me again. When we come to the planned construction of the units, in terms of the type of units here and I know that the five-plex is the most common design.

Will there be any seniors-specific units built under this budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just trying to confirm. Yes, there will be, if there is collaboration. We work very closely with the local housing associations to see what kind of units they are looking for in their community.

Mr. Chairman, and if they want facilities like what's becoming known as the elder facility, the ones with the common hallway where we work with the community for that kind of design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main, I'd like to remind you that this is your third round of questioning, so please keep your questions as brief as you can, so we can move on. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question was 25 seconds, so I'll try to keep this one shorter than that. What is the process for a community to identify that they want a seniors' 'plex. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 30 second answer? They just go through the LHO board with their desires. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So, in this or under this budget, how many of those seniors' plex units does the minister anticipate seeing built. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it stands now, a first step for us is to try to get the budget approved and once that has been approved, then we go to the LHOs to see and determine what type of units they would have interest in, keeping in mind that sometimes the units that are elder-friendly would require ramps and/or special mobility issue type of units in that regard and we would have to work closely with the LHOs to make that determination and try to keep within the parameters of the actual monies that have been approved. That's my response for now.

We haven't made any specific community-by-community determination as to where some of these may be built, but again, it's going to require us to work closely with the LHOs to actually make that determination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that information. How does it work for a community like Whale Cove, which was not allocated any public housing under this budget? Is there any avenue for them to request the construction of a seniors' complex or is that door simply closed until the next budget cycle? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Until such time that that community qualifies for allocation of housing units, we would look at that. The other avenue that a local housing authority could have is through the elders' program or through social services or something if they want to go that avenue, but as for the housing corporation, you pretty much have to wait until you're allocated housing before you can decide which ones you want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Again, we're on page L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$47,138,000. Do we agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the minister if he has any closing comments. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I just want to thank the housing corporation staff for all they try to do. It's a thankless job. We understand the frustrations and that my colleagues around this room have and the listening public. I want to thank the local housing associations and authorities for what they try to do fairly and equitably.

Thank you for your patience. Where we said that we will back to you, I assure you that we will get back to you as soon as we possibly can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us the opportunity to present our budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you as minister and Mr. Audla and Mr. Allaby for being here to answer all our questions. As we all know, housing is very important to all of our communities. The lack of public housing and in some cases staff housing is very important to all of us.

With that, I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he could please escort out the witnesses. At that we will take a five-minute break to prepare for the next department. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:34 and resumed at 18:40

Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capita) Act, 2019-2020 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak to proceed with his opening comments. Minister Kusugak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: There we go. I'm not the strong, silent type, Mr. Chairman, but I was waiting for the microphone to go on.

Mr. Chairman, before I begin, as you are aware, this department has not had a deputy minister for quite some time. With your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, I would like to welcome Ms. Constance Hourie, the new Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, who is in the gallery with us today. Welcome, Ms. Hourie.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm here to review the Department of Community and Government Services' proposed 2019-2020 five-year capital plan and in particular our 2019-2020 capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the Community and Government Services' 2019-2020 capital estimates plan has a balance of ongoing and new projects cost-shared and GN-funded, which in each case helps address the long-term infrastructure need in our territory.

We are here to review my department's 2019-2020 capital estimates, which focus on 18 projects totalling \$39,925,000. Our five-year capital plan consists of 20 projects. However, two of these projects do not require any funding this year and will come forward in future years.

The majority of CGS' capital plan consists of [15] ongoing projects. Nine are GN-funded and six are cost-shared under the federal funding program. Mr. Chairman, of the nine GN-funded projects, six are funded on a recurring basis. These include:

- \$4 million to the City of Iqaluit Contribution Agreement, which provides block funding to address municipal infrastructure pressures in Nunavut's capital city;
- Upgrades to the Nunavut tank farms to meet code compliance issues;
- \$2.5 million to meet the lifecycle requirements of the government's IT structure, including upgrades to the GN's communication technology infrastructure;
- The purchase of fire trucks for Baker Lake and Kugluktuk as per the CGS' fire trucks replacement schedule;
- \$1.5 million for preplanning studies; and
- \$6 million for the CGS Small Capital Fund to address a range of departmentally-mandated small capital needs, including the replacement of GN fleet vehicles, minor capital funding assistance to municipalities, upgrades to CGS funding and equipment, and minor capital projects for the Petroleum Products Division.

The CGS Small Capital Fund is supporting the following projects:

- Regular replacement of GN fleet vehicles;
- Block funding transferred directly to municipalities;
- Upgrades of buildings and equipment;
- Minor projects under \$250,000, and
- Petroleum Products Division minor capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, the remaining three GN-funded projects identified for the 2019-2020 fiscal year are not recurring and include the following:

- Increasing bulk fuel storage capacity in Gjoa Haven;
- A new fire hall in Arctic Bay; and

- A new fire hall in Kugaaruk.

Mr. Chairman, we are requesting ongoing funding for the following six federal cost-shared projects to support our federal agreements for the Small Communities Fund administration and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund administration. These include the following:

- The water system upgrades in Resolute Bay;
- Arena upgrades across Nunavut;
- Solid Waste Bundle 2 for solid waste projects in Rankin Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kimmirut, and Pangnirtung;
- Upgrades for the utilidor system in Rankin Inlet; and
- Funding to meet our cost-matching obligations to access administration funding under the Small Communities Fund and the clean water funding programs.

CGS has also identified three new projects for its 2019-2020 capital plan, Mr. Chairman. They include the replacement of a fuel tank in Coral Harbour to increase the tank farm capacity; the South Baffin Energy Management Program, which will allow CGS to participate in the cost-match federal Low Carbon Economy Fund; and funding to contribute towards a major fibre optic network project under the new federal Investing in Canada's Infrastructure program that will link Nunavut to Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is \$39,925,000. This represents a decrease of approximately 21 percent from its 2018-19 capital budget of \$50,637,000.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates include a significant amount of funding for a new "Fibre Infrastructure" project, the stated purpose of which is to enhance the government's broadband connectivity. Although 75 percent of the project's cost is anticipated to be funded by the Government of Canada under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, it is not clear if the federal government has formally agreed to provide this funding. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members expressed significant concerns about this project, including the extent to which it will benefit residents of communities outside of the capital.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates include funding for the City of Iqaluit Contribution Agreement. The agreement provides block funding for infrastructure. The department's capital project substantiation sheet indicates that "...the current GN block funding contribution [agreement] with the City of Iqaluit will expire on March 31, 2018." It is unclear if the agreement has actually been renewed or renegotiated. The standing committee urges the minister to table a copy of the new agreement at the earliest opportunity so that it can be made available to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates include funding for a number of preplanning studies. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members expressed significant concerns about the process by which the government determines which specific projects to include in its list of preplanning studies, including concerns regarding the extent to which the process reflects the priorities that municipalities have identified in their integrated community sustainability plans.

Although a combined total of \$2.8 million in funding for preplanning studies was approved by the Legislative Assembly for the department's 2017-18 and 2018-19 capital estimates, very little information concerning the actual results of the studies has been made public through tabling in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee urges the minister to begin the practice of tabling on an annual basis detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed preplanning studies.

During June of 2018 the Legislative Assembly approved \$24,258,000 in capital carryovers for its Kivalliq Energy Management Program, which is a component of the government's Nunavut Energy Management Program. The 2018 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on Climate Change in Nunavut* indicated that "...the program uses private sector firms to conduct energy retrofits to government buildings, using future energy savings to repay the cost of the retrofits. The program set two objectives: a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption and an associated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions." The department's proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates include funding for its South Baffin Energy Management Project, which is also a component of the Nunavut Energy Management Program. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide ongoing updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of these initiatives.

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

On March 28, 2018 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut issued a joint news release concerning the signing of a bilateral agreement under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The announcement indicated that Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,000 over the ten-year period between 2018 and 2028. On July 20, 2018 the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and the City of Iqaluit announced a federal contribution of \$26.2 million under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan for solid waste management improvements in the city.

The standing committee notes that section 8 of the *Integrated Bilateral Agreement* between the federal and territorial governments respecting the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan requires the Government of Nunavut to provide, by November 30, 2018, a formal and detailed infrastructure plan that includes such information as a "...section identifying projects that Nunavut intends to submit for approval by Canada for contribution funding under this Agreement, including projects that are ready to be submitted to Canada or that Nunavut may submit to Canada in the future." The standing committee urges the minister to table a copy of the government's Infrastructure Plan during the upcoming winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

On May 3, 2017 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut jointly announced over \$230 million in joint funding for 9 projects across 19 communities to upgrade solid waste management and water and wastewater systems throughout the territory. These projects, which are cost-shared under the federal Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, will help to address the need for adequate water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure in the territory. The department had previously indicated that it engaged Dalhousie University to undertake a review of wastewater facilities in Nunavut to determine if these facilities are meeting effluent quality standards. The department had also previously indicated that a final report on this review would be completed in January of 2016. The standing committee encourages the minister to table this report in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's approved 2018-19 capital estimates and proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates include funding for a significant number of projects related to water and wastewater. The 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year has been to "initiate the development of a drinking water strategy framework." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates include funding for a number of small capital projects. The standing committee urges the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the department's actual expenditures in this area. The standing committee notes that the department's Minor Capital Block Funding Policy expired on March 31, 2018, and looks forward to the policy being updated in consultation with Nunavut's municipalities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 9 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Going to the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Regular Members' Caucus meets tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 30:

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

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:00*

