



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 40

Monday, March 4, 2019

Pages 2504 – 2607

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
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Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety
and Compensation Commission*

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(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of
Education; Minister of Languages*

Joelie Kaerner
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister
of Human Resources*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of
the Committee of the Whole*

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)
*Minister responsible for
Nunavut Arctic College;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
Council*

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Homelessness; Minister responsible for
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Status of Women*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 4, 2019**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Joe Enook)

(interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and my colleagues, good afternoon. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. I'm pleased that we will be meeting again as we have a lot of work to do. I have good expectations that we will have a good meeting and be working together on behalf of the people of Nunavut.

Going to the orders of the day. If you brought a cellphone, please put it on silent mode or completely shut it off.

Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 177 – 5(2):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased we are back here and have a good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that the (interpretation ends) Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation) will be absent from the House today, March 4, 2019. (interpretation ends) Our colleague, accompanied by Paul Quassa, is attending the PDAC 2019, which is the mineral exploration and mining convention in Toronto, Ontario, from March 2 to 5, 2019. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 178 – 5(2):
Transition Plan for the New
Department of Human Resources**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet. I say "good day" to you. My cellphone was in so much agreement with you that it kept ringing, so I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update to my colleagues on how the establishment of the Department of Human Resources is progressing. The department will be in place effective April 1. Setting up a department takes a bit of time.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure the department is operational, a plan has been developed to guide a smooth and efficient transition which covers the period from January to June 2019. During this transition period, the departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Finance will continue to provide corporate support. Operational work and day-to-day tasks continue as usual, with no interruption to client service.

Mr. Speaker, since early January my deputy minister has met with the management team that will be transferred to the department and held a “Transition Management Workshop” to develop skills for managing and communicating with their staff during this transition. The Department of Human Resources’ business plan and main estimates have been finalized and will be presented during this session. The search for an executive team has already begun with the two assistant deputy minister positions and the director of corporate services currently being filled through the competitive process. Other senior management positions are forthcoming.

The Department of Human Resources will have a total of 112 positions within the department and 16 Sivuliqtiksat internship positions to support internships throughout the GN for a total of 128 positions.

Information on plans for the transition will be provided to employees, internal clients, and contractors over the coming weeks.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to making the Department of Human Resources a reality by April 1,

2019 with objectives and priorities that include:

- Continuing to strengthen human resource capacity across the public service;
- Refocus human resources policies and programs towards Inuit employment at all levels of the public service; and
- Ensure that government structures, processes, and programs operate in a fiscally responsible manner that supports action on priorities and meets the needs of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to keeping Members informed on our progress. My department will work through *Katujjiqatigiinnivut*, in partnership with other departments to advance the goals and aspirations of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister’s Statement 179 – 5(2):
Baffin Correctional Centre Inmate
Committee Charitable Donation**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to rise today to announce the recent charitable donations made by the inmate committees for the Baffin Correctional Centre, Makigiavik, and the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility this past holiday season.

The inmate committee for the Baffin

Correctional Centre and Makigiarvik donated \$10,000 to the Iqaluit Men's Shelter and the inmate committee at the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility donated \$1,000 to the Roman Catholic Church Food Bank, \$1,000 to the Deacons Cupboard Food Bank, and \$1,000 to the RCMP Christmas Hamper.

>> *Applause*

The funds donated are generated by the inmates themselves through various activities, including:

- the sale of carvings and art from Makigiarvik;
- the Town Crew Program where inmates are employed with the City of Iqaluit, Community and Government Services, and other organizations; and
- the profits generated from weekly canteen sales.

These funds are pooled into an inmate welfare account which is managed by the inmate committee at each facility.

Both inmate committees also organized their annual elders' dinner. The entire meal was prepared by inmates. Inmates were also paired with elders for the games and activities. The events were well received by both elders and inmates. In Rankin Inlet there were over a hundred people in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, inmate committees are a vital part of correctional facilities in Nunavut. These committees are made up of inmates who are elected by their peers to bring forward inmate concerns to the wardens and to hear concerns from the

wardens.

I am pleased to see that the inmates in Nunavut are finding meaningful ways to make positive contributions to Nunavummiut and I look forward to the work they will do in 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 180 – 5(2):
Establishment of Territorial Parks
in Nunavut**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to explain the process that is used to establish a territorial park in Nunavut. This process requires the involvement of joint planning and management committees, Inuit and community organizations, government agencies, and non-government organizations through five stages: background; feasibility; a master plan; a management plan; and implementation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain these stages for the members.

The background stage is to assess if there is local support for an area of interest to become a territorial park.

The feasibility stage identifies the significant natural and cultural resources, and recommends a concept for a proposed territorial park.

During the master plan stage, we develop a long-term vision and strategic plan and budget intended to guide the purpose, extent, and design of a territorial park and its resources. After this stage, the park is ready to be legislated under the *Territorial Parks Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the management plan stage describes how the territorial park and its resources will be protected, operated, and managed for the next ten years.

Finally, implementation is where activities like the development of infrastructure or heritage appreciation programs begin in the territorial park for the benefit of the residents.

The Department of Environment is currently working with joint planning and management committees to finalize the establishment of territorial parks in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, and Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, our parks are unique landscapes that have been our home for generations. They are favourite places to fish, camp, pick berries, walk, relax, and heal. Territorial parks are places that we enjoy with our families and want to share with visitors to Nunavut. I encourage all Nunavummiut to explore and enjoy our parks every season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 181 – 5(2): National Social Work Month

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Every March, individuals and/organizations across Canada observe National Social Work Month in recognition of the meaningful contributions social workers make to the health, safety, and well-being of their communities. This year's theme is "Elevate." Frontline social workers aim to elevate and empower people, giving them the ability to solve problems, cope with personal roadblocks, and get the resources they need to succeed.

During National Social Work Month, it is important to elevate the role our social workers play in Nunavut and highlight the important contributions they make in our territory.

My department currently has 48 community social workers across Nunavut who are responsible for providing services for children and adults who require support and/or protection. They are mandated to provide these services as per the *Child and Family Services Act*, a piece of legislation that must be administered in accordance with a number of Inuit societal values, including *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, respecting others, relationships and caring for people; *Aajiqatigiinni*, decision-making through [discussion] and consensus; and [*Pijitsirniq*], serving and providing for family and community.

You can see *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* throughout our work with families, through volunteer service agreements,

plans of care, or other types of agreements. These agreements help families who need some sort of support. They are collaborative in nature and work to help families before more intrusive measures are needed. We also work to involve extended families and community members where possible in supporting children, youth, and families. This too is reflective of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

We would like to express our gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and encourage others, especially our youth, to consider a career in this important field.

Uqaqtitsijii, National Social Work Month gives us the opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and elevate our social workers for everything they do. On behalf of my department, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our community social service workers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Minister's Statement 182 – 5(2): NAC Partnership to Launch Nunavut's First Satellite

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce an exciting partnership between Nunavut

Arctic College and the University of Western Ontario. The goal of the partnership is to design, build, and deploy a miniature satellite commonly referred to as a CubeSat. Once deployed, this CubeSat will likely be Nunavut's first foray into space.

The project is part of the Canadian Space Agency's Canadian CubeSat Program. This program was announced in April 2017 and last May, the Canadian Space Agency announced the 15 winning proposals, one of which the college and the University of Western Ontario were selected.

The project is still in the preliminary design stage but will include a virtual reality camera to capture images from space in a format rarely available.

Project leaders from the university will visit Iqaluit this month to deploy design ideas, discuss the types of objects and events that students would like captured by the virtual reality camera, and explore the possibility of having parts of the CubeSat fabricated here in Nunavut. The team will also initiate a naming competition for the CubeSat.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very exciting and complex project. The launch date will likely occur in 2021 or 2022. However, once launched, the CubeSat will be a notable achievement in the history of our territory. As Nunavut's first foray into space, I sincerely hope the project will inspire Nunavummiut to reach for the stars and pursue educational and career paths in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Careers in these areas are exciting, well paid, and growing in number faster than most other career sectors. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 183 – 5(2): 2019
Canadian Family Literacy Day**

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues that this past January 27 was Canadian Family Literacy Day's 20th anniversary.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, to celebrate, the Department of Education encouraged families and schools to follow this year's theme and "Take 20" by participating in a literacy activity for 20 minutes together.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this annual event was developed by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 to celebrate adults and children reading and learning together, and to encourage families to spend time each day enjoying a literacy activity together.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many Nunavut schools participated in Family Literacy Day by holding their own literacy events that encouraged parents, children, and community members to engage in fun literacy activities that strengthen family relationships while encouraging lifelong learning.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, for

example, in my constituency, Qaqqalik School in Kimmirut began the day with a family pancake breakfast followed by a morning of parents and guardians spending time in the classrooms reading from a variety of both Inuktitut and English books. The event had an exceedingly high turnout and parents expressed the value of strengthening Inuktitut literacy within the home.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, by reading to children and engaging in fun literacy activities, parents are actively keeping their own skills sharp, strengthen the relationship between family members, and promote literacy skills in our territory's official languages. This in turn encourages children to become lifelong learners who are able to prosper in a multilingual world. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I had the pleasure to join my children in elementary and middle school and it was great to see parents participate in literacy activities. (interpretation) Let's read to our children at home in Inuktitut or English or French. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 274 – 5(2):
Mental Health and Social Media**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the issue of mental health and to discuss several issues therein that are becoming disconcerting to me based on what I have been informed about that I want to raise.

Facebook, the social media platform, is perhaps the most widely used software for surfing the Internet, as some people are becoming habituated with being online in Nunavut, obviously, and perhaps more so amongst the younger people. Through studies all over the world, researchers have studied the phenomena as computers become more widespread and Internet usage becomes available. They have found people who become addicted and it can cause mental stress for some. Although there is no conclusion of this being the cause, it can cause mental issues when you rely on computers to always check, for example, Facebook. Apparently when they need to constantly check their status, it means Internet addiction, with more researchers finding out the negative effects of this medium.

This is especially concerning for young people here in Nunavut as they already face mental health challenges. In light of the Internet becoming widely available in Nunavut, I am quite concerned that we are allowing this to occur without the proper knowledge of the negative impacts to Nunavummiut by the addiction to the Internet and what other problems may show. It is much like the 1960s and 1970s with cigarettes, when the health impacts were largely unknown about the cancer-causing effects of cigarettes. We didn't know the effect then, but I feel that we are again in that situation with this new medium and surfing the Internet.

Some prominent researchers and social media experts are researching the addictiveness of this new medium, and social media can become very addicting. It can especially become an addiction where they start off too young. Nunavummiut also noticed this. Many elders are starting to complain that many of the youth are not interested in talking with them anymore; they are all hunched in front of their small screens and locked in their own world.

I have a few more things to state and I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Main, please proceed.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate my colleagues' ability to not easily get tired of me speaking at length.

Further, this is becoming more noticeable as it is affecting more Nunavummiut. What should we be doing in terms of these impacts? As Nunavummiut, we are already facing tremendous mental challenges and we need to ensure that more work is done within Nunavut to deal with this issue.

I can use as an example in Britain, in the United Kingdom, their government's health department is issuing Internet restriction guidelines to guide parents on the limits... (interpretation ends) In the UK there is currently work within the department of health to set guidelines to help parents and to help youth in terms

of limiting their exposure, limiting the time that they use social media and setting guidelines to help parents and to help families to recognize issues around mental health.

I think this is something that we should be considering here in Nunavut, and I think that the need for increased attention around mental health issues is clear in the territory and the trend we see in our young people is very concerning. I will be asking questions to the Minister of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 275 – 5(2):
Kivalliq Hockey Team Going to
Manitoba**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

These young people weren't hunched over their screens in Rankin Inlet that I want to speak about regarding an atoms or midget hockey selection camp for players who will represent us in Winnipeg. This happened over the weekend in Rankin Inlet. I thank the organizers of the camp, along with the parents.

All the communities of Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Arviat with Whale Cove, Naujaat with Chesterfield Inlet, and Coral Harbour had a real hockey selection camp, and players will be travelling to compete in the tournament

starting March 22 to 24 in Winnipeg against other teams.

The goalie who will be starting is Tucker St. John from Arviat, my grandchild Justin Towtongie, Malla Ittinuar, Terence Pilakapsi, Sandy Tattuinee, Garren Voisey, Charlotte Siksik is one of the girls, Kobe Tanuyak, Chase Harron, Koby Connelly, Randy Siusangnark from Naujaat, Maximus Amaruq, I might be wrong on this name. Herman Kadjuk, Micah whose last name is a brother-in-law that I can't mention unfortunately, Emiktowt, Ethan Kuksuk, and Owen Connelly-Clark. We wish our hockey players good luck in Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 276 – 5(2):
Supports for Homeowners**

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Amittuq, especially to my wife and children.

Today I will make a statement about private homeownership here in Nunavut. In the face of our housing crisis and with shortages everywhere, we must not forget them, and I want to also encourage people to become homeowners.

Residents who own homes also face many challenges, especially when the winter months arrive where the homeowners are constantly worried about having enough fuel in their tank

and whether or not the fuel will last through the night, hoping that the house won't freeze overnight. These are the mental worries they face during the wintertime as private homeowners wrestle with challenges and choosing between food and heat, especially in light of the high costs of healthy foods.

I want to speak to this issue to try to show my support and assistance to people who are private homeowners as I too support them. I wanted to express my encouragement to residents, as private homeowners are looking at the future of their children. They are also leaving an inheritance to their children so when they pass away, their children can have their own home.

I would like to see if there are ways to provide more assistance to homeowners through the housing corporation. I will be asking the minister responsible about these homeownership issues at the appropriate time. I will be directing my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I just wanted to outline that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 277 – 5(2):
Contract Services for Public
Service**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of the Government of Nunavut using contractors to fill the roles intended to be filled by indeterminate government employees.

On Friday my colleague, Ms. Nakashuk,

and I brought up the amount of contractors listed in the 2016-17 *Procurement Activity Report* which appear to be conducting work intended for employees in the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from numerous constituents about the use of contract services to fill the role intended for permanent employees. Mr. Speaker, I am also aware that that the Nunavut Employees Union has put forward numerous complaints of bargaining union positions being contracted out.

I'm very concerned about this practice as it removes jobs from my constituents. I'll continue to raise my concerns over the use of contractors to fill positions until the Government of Nunavut ends the use of contractors and allows Nunavummiut the option of filling these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking questions on the topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Member's Statement 278 – 5(2):
Kitikmeot Sewing Program**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week women in Cambridge Bay were sewing *puhitaqs*. (interpretation ends) A project has enabled Inuit women in Cambridge Bay to develop skills and the ability to make traditional, authentic style *puhitaqs*, which is the sunburst, a tradition that has been unique in Cambridge Bay and the Western Arctic

style passed down for generations.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the instructor at the school was Agnes Panioyak from Kugluktuk. The participants of this ladies group were Clara Evalik, Rosie Kaiyogana, Karen Kamoayok, Nora Niptanatiak, Annie Jane Kamingoak, Helen Blewett, Eva Komak, Evelyn Kitigon, and the Inuvialuit participants were Ethel Jane Gruben, Beverly Amos, and Lena Kotokak.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the long-standing tradition of *puhitaqs* now at times called sunbursts is an extended wolf fur that has been cut into strips of the longest parts of the fur/skin to be sewn onto canvas. This *puhitaq* is added onto the hood of a Mother Hubbard parka over a strip of wolverine. It is the understanding that this tradition was introduced by Alaskan women to the Inuit of the Kitikmeot, who in most cases were descendants of Alaskan Inuit.

The *puhitaq* was used to add additional warmth to the face during cold winter months. The *puhitaq* is to deflect the wind from the face. Not only does it add warmth to the Inuit women's face but adds to a beautiful culture and heritage that this *puhitaq* is also a part of a symbol of Inuit women from the Arctic.

(interpretation) I would like to thank the (interpretation ends) Kitikmeot Inuit Association (interpretation) as well as the hamlet. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Moving on.

Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Good afternoon to my daughters who are on lunch break. Have a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my constituent, Jorgen Bolt, who is a member of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. I would like to thank him for providing his important expertise to the board. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, Jorgen.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were all holding our breath for a while.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize someone who used to sit here in this House. He's now the chairman of the NWMB. Mr. Dan Shewchuk is sitting here behind me. I call him "Ihumataq" because he used to be my boss. I would like to welcome him here and to enjoy himself while he listens to all the answers we give and all the questions that they get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Shewchuk. I believe the NWMB are meeting here in Iqaluit and I hope it goes well this week.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Everyone here who has not been mentioned, welcome to your House and always feel welcome.

Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 376 – 5(2): Reducing Alcohol-related Harm in Nunavut

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and fellow residents of Pangnirtung.

This afternoon I will be directing my question to the Minister of Finance.

With regard to alcohol, Pangnirtung is a prohibited community and this status still applies to this day. There is no selling of alcohol in our community and residents continue to have ongoing concerns about this issue. I want to ask a question about this matter.

On November 8, 2016 the government introduced a (interpretation ends) strategy titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* and it was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the minister of the day. One of the specific elements of this action plan was to disrupt “illegal activities through the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.”

Mr. Speaker, in her responses over the past year to questions asked by my colleagues from Qamani'tuaq, Gjoa Haven, *amma* Netsilik, the Minister of Justice has been constantly saying that she has prepared the necessary job descriptions for the new civil forfeiture office and forwarded them to the Department of Finance. Can the Minister of Finance confirm when these positions will be out for competition?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for highlighting the civil forfeiture office that we brought into force in the last Assembly and I look forward to that office opening up.

With regard to the specific status of those job competitions, I don't have that level of detail with me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) During last week's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister announced that he has recently established a “Beer and Wine Store Monitoring Working Group,” the purpose of which is to “monitor the impacts” of the store.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that the opening of the store is having an impact on other communities in this region, including Pangnirtung. However,

although the minister spoke about the impact that the beer and wine store has had on the capital city, he did not clearly indicate if this working group will also be evaluating the impact that the beer and wine store is having on the neighbouring communities.

Will the working group also be evaluating the impact of the beer and wine store on other communities in the region of Nunavut, yes or no?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we put together the terms of reference and the types of things that that committee will be looking at, it's open to suggestions. I'll take the member's suggestion and bring it forward to the committee to see how they would be able to analyze whether it be submissions from communities or how they would be able to analyze the impact in outside communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk: Mr. Speaker, a long-standing frustration is the difficulty that we have in intercepting illegal shipments of alcohol into the community like Pangnirtung. Without getting into the specific details about ongoing law enforcement activities, can the minister assure the House that his department is sharing information with the RCMP about purchases at the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store in order to identify bootlegging activities into the

communities like Pangnirtung?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the report that was tabled in 2016 that the member talked to in her first preamble, the *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm*, one of the parameters or one of the areas in there is enforcement, making sure that we do track the permitting and we do share that information with the RCMP. Part of that document is to explore other ways of how to support the RCMP in their making sure that only communities that are enabled to bring liquor into the communities are allowed to do so.

We just recently spoke with members of the RCMP's new superintendent and that was one of the topics that came up. One of the things that we take very seriously is making sure...although we do have liberalized access here in Iqaluit, we want to make sure that other communities are very clear. If you're not permitted to take alcohol into the community, you're not permitted to take alcohol into the community no matter where you come from. We do work with the RCMP on those matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 377 – 5(2): Status of Martha Taliruq Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, the Martha Talirug Elders Centre in beautiful Baker Lake was closed down some time ago due to some much-needed repairs and renovations. Can the minister provide an update on the current status of those repairs and what is the projected timeline for their completion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct. Last April the last two residents were transferred out of that facility in Baker Lake. As we have talked about in this House, there was a fuel spill under the facility that, to the best of our knowledge, has been remediated, but we do have to make sure that any air quality testing be done.

That being said, there were monies approved in the last budget for renovations to that building, but when you take into consideration residential elder care, any time you do a major renovation to a facility, it opens up the building code parameters. We have to look very closely at it to make sure that whenever we do any major renovations, we complete those renovations up to current building codes standards. There are a number of concerns with that facility on reinstating it as a residential facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Martha Talirug Elders Centre was run by a society under contract from the Government of

Nunavut. Can the minister clarify when he anticipates issuing a new request for proposals to run the newly renovated Martha Talirug Elders Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't give that information today. We have to thoroughly make sure that first of all that building can be used for residential services to be provided in the community of Baker Lake again before we make a decision on when to go out for tender for that type of a service to be provided in that infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of Baker Lake residents worked at the Martha Talirug Elders Centre and provided very good care to the residents. Will the minister commit to working with whichever entity successfully wins the contract to run the Martha Talirug Elders Centre to hire back some of the workers who provided very good care to the elders at the centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If at such time as we do decide to move ahead with using that facility for residential elder care services, I would be very surprised if any successful contractor would not take advantage of locally trained staff that

would be able to work in that facility.

In addition, it's typically part of our contract to provide training dollars so that any upgraded training for other community members to work in that facility would be able to be worked out with the contractor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 378 – 5(2): Partnership with Nunavut Arctic College

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

As we discussed on Friday, the Informatics Cooperative Training Program is a collaborative effort between Community and Government Services and Nunavut Arctic College that offers a two-year program to train Nunavummiut to enter the workforce in the informatics field. I would like to ask the minister today: when did this program begin and to date, how many cohorts have completed the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question on this matter. We collaborate with the adult educators and the college to offer this program to Nunavummiut in the informatics field. When this program was first established

in the year 2000, the program was quite successful and I cannot recall the exact number of students or graduates who partook in that program. I don't have the numbers, but the program was very successful when it was offered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: how many of those graduates of the IT program are currently working for the Department of Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. I don't have the specific details as to how many graduates there were and how many of those graduates are now working for the government as information technologists for (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. (interpretation) It's impossible to have that kind of detailed information readily available, as we can only search for this past information by conducting an actual search. I cannot respond to the question at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister: what type of jobs in the

Department of Community and Government Services would the graduates of this program be qualified for, and what kinds of efforts has the department done to try to hire and retain these graduates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the program allows the successful applicants or successful graduates from that program to work at the entry-level positions of computers. It depends on how far along they went in the computer training program.

I would like to assure my colleague that our department does its best to ensure that if there is a computer or any position within the Government of Nunavut within CGS, there is an opportunity to hire Inuit and Nunavummiut to those positions. We take that very seriously. I look forward to seeing more Inuit apply for IT positions within our department and the rest of the departments that offer those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 379 – 5(2): Issues with Medical Travel and Services

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

I receive numerous complaints from my

constituents about uncleanliness issues at the transient centre in Winnipeg. When medical patients travel down, they are dealing with medical issues and are put in rooms that haven't been serviced or cleaned. As a matter of fact, some complaints were made about the bedding being stinky or smelly and some patients bring along lice and bedbugs upon their return home that have infested their luggage. These are medical patients who are in pain. For this reason, I have some questions to ask.

(interpretation ends) Concerns are consistently raised about the services provided under various contracts held by the Department of Health for such programs as medical boarding home, emergency medical travel, and scheduled medical travel. What process does the Department of Health follow to ensure that services, conditions, and other obligations are being properly provided for by the different contractors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all of our boarding home contracts, we have staff that communicate regularly with the management in addition to providing on-site visits to make sure that, again, the conditions of the contract, the conditions that our residents and we expect for our patients that stay in those facilities, it meets the requirements of the contract.

That being said, we have had challenges at other boarding homes in addition to Winnipeg where we continue to communicate what level of service we expect and what level of service is

required. Going forward, we will continue to meet with them.

I will say that anytime issues are brought to any of our attention or members of the public, please feel free to contact either myself or our patient relations office so that we can deal with those incidents and issues right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Information was conveyed to me about medical patients who have to travel with their overall meal allowance being \$16.97, which is extremely cheap, yet they have to pay for breakfast, lunch, and supper. Many of our sick medical patients have to use their own money to feed themselves properly. What is the reason for this extremely low amount provided? What was the reasoning behind allocating \$16.97 per medical patient? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the contract we have with the Inuit centre in Winnipeg is to provide food services and meals to the residents there. For people who are staying outside the facility in overflow situations, food can be delivered or they do provide per diem amounts. I'm not sure exactly how those amounts are agreed to or come upon. We do work with Health Canada and the contractor to establish rates, so I would have to look into the exact details on how those per

diems are established. That's all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, I was apprised by a person who is disabled and requires a wheelchair that when he was in pain, they had to travel to the transient home for Kivalliq patients located in Winnipeg. The vehicle wasn't able to lift up the wheelchair inside as the mechanism was not working. Have the departmental officials done inspections on whether the mobile equipment is working properly that are leased by the Department of Health? This is specific to the vehicle used at the transient centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can deliver some good news at a part of this question. Mr. Speaker, that issue was recently brought to my attention and there have been discussions with the Inuit centre in Winnipeg on how to find a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 380 – 5(2): Public Housing Rental Arrears

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my colleagues, the residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. Let's have a

wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the question I would like to ask today is specific to rental scales for units that are being rented by members of the public.

Mr. Speaker, does the rent get charged right at the start of the unit being inhabited? It is obvious that some tenants are unable to pay rent at all during parts of the year. This leads to the rental arrears quickly accumulating and it is hard for them to see the amount until you get to the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he can provide an explanation on this process, and if he cannot do so today, he can provide it at a later date or via a written explanation of how much overall rent is owed by residents here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood his question properly, he wanted to know the overall rental arrears of the tenants in the communities. I wonder if that is what he is trying to ask about or if he is asking if tenants can start paying off their arrears. I seem to have heard a two-pronged question, so I would like to ask which issue he is asking about, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

question as to which subject you are asking about so the minister can understand.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize that I didn't clearly identify that. I was asking about rental arrears that may start accumulating from the time the tenant starts renting the unit and if you have a total number for all the rental arrears in our territory of Nunavut. Hopefully I came across as understandable, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser, if you now understand the question, can you respond to it? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the numbers. Once I get them, I will provide you with the information at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the answer as it allows us to understand. That is good to know.

Mr. Speaker, as residents of Nunavut, I was wondering about the rental arrears that started in the 1960s when Inuit first started to pay rent on our units as this is how Inuit started off with a minimal rent. Any Inuk who can afford to pay part or all the rent makes payments. Others may not be able to make payments and their arrears just keep growing.

Mr. Speaker, for people who cannot

afford to pay, is the amount of arrears continuing to grow up to today? Mr. Speaker, what about each community and the rental arrears owed by local Inuit? How many tenants owe arrears? I hope that was clear, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't know exactly how many tenants have arrears. We work with the tenants to see how we can lower their bills. We don't want to just evict the tenants. We ask them to come to their local housing association office to work it out with employees to see how they can pay their debts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. That partially answered my question. This final question I want to ask is, ever since rental policies were introduced, some people have made payments while other tenants don't set aside payments. What about the people who can't make or afford any payments as there are many Inuit who have large debts? In thinking of that total amount where tenants have no financial resources to make payments, are the arrears still on the books? What is the total amount and how can we resolve this challenge? I would like to see this amount lowered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People who owe rent on our units who get evicted or move to a different community, it is documented. If that person owed money to housing and before those debts are paid, the lessee can't get a new public housing unit according to our policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 381 – 5(2): Housing for Staff at New Sanikiluaq Health Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, a new health centre is being constructed in Sanikiluaq and it's scheduled to be completed in about 18 months. The minister will also recall I wrote to him in the fall regarding the need for staff housing for the new health centre to be close to the facility for a number of reasons.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the five-plex staff housing that is to be constructed right next to the new health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue again. How do I say this? It has been a complicated topic. I know that even just this morning we were talking about staff housing specifically for health centre staff with a couple of my colleagues.

When we look at building infrastructure in the territory, specifically health centres, as this is what we're talking about today, when we build staff housing in a community, we run into challenges where that stock becomes part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's staff housing stock. We can't confirm that they would be intended for the health centre staff. There are, in some communities, memorandums of understanding where we can make an agreement with the housing corporation to allocate those units specifically for health centre staff.

Right now we're still in discussions on how and where we're going to locate those units, but in the meantime we do have a plan in place to continue to utilize the residential units in the current health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to a letter I received on October 15, it seemed like everything was a go and that they were going ahead with building this five-plex in the community. Now I'm kind of sceptical of what is happening.

From reading the minister's letter, I was pleased to note that staff housing would be built next to the health centre so that

staff would not have to walk across town to get to the health centre in the case of an emergency, especially in the middle of winter when it's dark and blizzard conditions.

Can the minister clarify the timeline for the completion of the staff housing units and assure me that they will be ready for staff to move into by the time that the new health centre opens its doors for business? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Exactly as I wrote in that letter, it is the intent to have the staff residence very close to the health centre where minutes can mean lives. Mr. Speaker, we take that very seriously. In some communities, like I said, in Sanikiluaq in the current facility we have residences right attached to the building. We want to maintain that level of proximity. We just have to make sure that we do work with Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation on a specific timeline. As soon as I get that timeline sorted out between our departments and organizations and our officials, absolutely the member will be my first speed dial. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister may have answered my next question in part during my first question, but just for more information, I seem to recall that in another community where staff housing was built right next to the health centre, there was a lack of

understanding between the Department of Health and the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the units were allocated to other government workers instead of health care staff.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the new staff housing that is to be built right next to the health centre in Sanikiluaq will indeed be allocated specifically for health centre staff?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. It was a learning experience where we had the residence part of the overall budget for the health centre and then basically subcontracted or had an agreement with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to build the units.

That being said, it is my intention. I can't commit at this time. There are some discussions that will have to take place, but my intention is to have any new residence built beside the health centre allocated to health centre staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 382 – 5(2): Land and Lot Development

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing

Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's blueprint for action clearly identifies a number of systemic barriers to the housing supply in Nunavut. The blueprint states that "...the high cost of developing land and the infrastructure necessary to support it, prevents proactive lot development and neighbourhood planning in most communities." In other words we need a lot more lots in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Action 26 of the blueprint commits the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work with the Department of Community and Government Services to "Develop Guidelines for Determining Lot Development by Community." Can the minister provide an update today on what work is currently being undertaken in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The blueprint represents a whole of government approach to addressing housing challenges and sets out 60 actions to be undertaken by the GN and its partners over the next 20 years to tackle a variety of housing issues across Nunavut. Certainly we work with CGS on lot development. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I really got an answer to my question exactly what's being undertaken. I understand you have just said that you work with them, but my question was: currently what work is undertaken in this area? Perhaps the minister can get back to me on that.

Earlier this year the City of Iqaluit held a ballot draw to award residential lots in the new Joamie School Subdivision. On November 27, 2018 the city council unanimously gave second reading to the proposed new land administration by-law. This by-law includes a number of important changes, including new eligibility and procedures for residential ballot draws that will prioritize Inuit and long-term residents of the city.

Section 53.5 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, which is quite a thick document here, requires the Minister of Community and Government Services to approve new land administration by-laws.

Can the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation confirm that he is working with the Minister of CGS to expedite the Government of Nunavut's review of the new by-law? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently I didn't grasp the first question the member asked and I will have to return with the information when I am able to do so.

If I understood my colleague's question,

as this is the first time I have heard about it through the second question about what the housing corporation plans are, if I also understood it, I will get back to our colleague with information at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. I look forward to that information.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Action 36 of the blueprint commits the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Community and Government Services to "Engage with RIAs on Potential P3 for Housing Construction, Block Land Development" and the development of Inuit-owned land within municipal boundaries. Can the minister provide an update today on what kind of work is currently being undertaken in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Under the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, we are mandated to work with our Inuit orgs in addressing our acute housing issues. Exactly what we want to do is to reach out to our Inuit partners in how we can address this acute housing issue that is before us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 383 – 5(2): Mental Health Issues and Social Media

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, I have questions for the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there is a developing body of research on the link between mental health issues and social media use. I should add that there are some positive benefits to social media use that have been backed up by research, but specifically I am talking about excessive use of social media and particularly among young people.

Are mental health workers Nunavut aware of this matter and the fact that it is developing? Are they being kept current, so to speak, with the developing research in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with interest to the member's statement earlier. We all realize in this technological world there are more and more encroachments on our, I call it, outside time of going out and being active, and the screen time that our youth are spending, as a father of two teenage girls, I can personally attest to.

That being said, with regard to the professional development of our mental health workers, technology is a topic that comes up frequently on how to use it safely. I'm not sure if the actual screen time is a part of their training. I know there are resources available that we

have utilized to help educate people on how much screen time is safe, but I'm sure the member will get to some of that in his follow-up questions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned in my statement, I am concerned that this overuse of social media may be making the mental health issues in Nunavut among our young people even worse. That is my second question. Is there any evidence or is there a trend in the mental health issues within the youth population within Nunavut that the government is noticing? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're seeing a trend of people accessing more services, people being more cognizant and reducing that stigma of approaching health care professionals, mental health workers, to communicate more openly with their friends and family. It's always even more encouraged.

I'll be up later this week or next week with a supp bill for increased mental health matters, where we find we are having more and more people access services which are in my opinion a good thing that we're driving up costs associated with that budget line, which shows that people are accessing the services. I think it is very important and worth noting that when people do feel, through family members or friends, that

there are issues, they come forward and speak to mental health employees in their community.

With regard to social media itself, we all are becoming more and more involved and seeing more and more instances of how social media can be a good thing, like the member says, but it can also create challenges for our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I mentioned in my statement what's happening over in the United Kingdom where the department of health over there is set to produce their first official guidelines on the maximum amount of time young people should spend on social media.

Also speaking as a parent, having the government set such a guideline could be a useful tool for parents and youth in terms of understanding social media and how it affects mental health. It's not just a parent nagging the child, so to speak, or the teenager, but if the government sets a guideline, it brings more awareness around this issue.

Will the minister commit to looking into this matter and working with the federal counterparts and seeing if the Nunavut government's health department can set a guideline for social media use among our young people? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's suggestion. I have recently been made aware of other resources that are available at a national level, like the member talks about. One of the ones that was brought to my attention, mediasmarts.ca, has tips for managing screen time, parenting the digital generation, helping kids deal with cyber bullying, social media and your kids. We have also worked with Facebook on developing a way for users to anonymously report friends that are posting distressing posts and to help connect with Health Canada resources.

Mr. Speaker, the member's suggestion to put out resources to parents about how to safe-surfing suggested social media sites, digital literacy that can help kids protect them from being exploited or bullied, I take that suggestion very appreciatively. I'm sure my officials are already listening, but I will follow up with my officials to look at putting out a media campaign or some resources at the community so that parents can have some established guidelines of how much is deemed safe by experts in the field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 384 – 5(2): Mould in Public Housing

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my question, I say "good afternoon" to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to

the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as we were made aware, we have an issue of mould in a number of housing units across the territory that is a cause of concern for many of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, certain communities were selected to assess how much mould exists in housing units. What's the status of that today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done assessments and we have also notified tenants on what to do when they find mould. Thank you.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. He said that all communities have now been assessed. Did you also check the housing units in the smaller communities? I have been told by some of my constituents that their houses are still mouldy and smell of mould, which affects their health. Have these units been assessed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When units are identified for complaints with mould, it's easier to provide the staff feedback. If

you have any units that might have mould in them, I would like you to notify me. The local housing organizations trained their employees on how to deal with mould. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. Mr. Speaker, some people are still concerned about their housing units. I wonder if they can directly approach the local housing association in terms of mould or needing work on their unit. Is this something that the local housing authorities can deal with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We often want to become directors to help our communities. You can also let your directors know and your housing association committees or the housing office know in your community that a certain house smells of mould or requires repair. Please make them aware if there are units with mould in them.

At any time I would like to hear of any units that have not been cleaned, as I stated, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Question 385 – 5(2): Medical Travel Issues

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the medical travel contract is currently under review. However, I wish to ask whether certain aspects of the weekend flights between both Yellowknife and Kugluktuk have been taken into consideration. The so-called “milk run” flight on Saturdays and Sundays between both Yellowknife and Kugluktuk takes eight hours. That is a long flight. Can the minister clarify whether his department is aware of the difficulties faced by medical clients on these long flights? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the RFP that’s out right now for medical and duty travel, it has a number of different components and route suggestions, maybe not the route suggestions right in the RFP but the route options, broken down, worked in conjunction with. It’s always a topic of discussions when we work with our airline partners on how their routing goes. Mr. Speaker, you and I have talked about this topic in the past. It is something that we continue dialogue on.

Our medical travel personnel are always cognizant of how long it takes people to get home and whether it can be done in one day after their appointments are done, whether any layovers, any other boarding homes need to be taken into consideration. I take the member’s

comments and I’ll continue to follow up with my medical travel officials and see when the latest communication was done with the airline officials on that route to see what progress has been made in discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. The “milk run” flight between both Yellowknife and Kugluktuk is very long. Unfortunately one of the flights is not equipped to provide passengers with anything more than crackers and a beverage. It has been suggested that medical clients on the Yellowknife to Kugluktuk flight should be provided bagged lunches by the Larga Boarding Home so that they can have something to eat on the long trip home. Can the minister clarify whether this issue has ever been raised with the Larga Boarding Home contractors and, if it hasn’t, would he be willing to raise it and include this service to the contract? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m not sure if that issue has been raised with the boarding home itself. I’m not aware of it, but I will follow up with my officials to see what the timelines are for the flights and to see if that’s a possible remedy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the “milk run” is very long and difficult for some medical clients. There was one individual who had a broken leg and had to sit in the plane in a wheelchair for a very long eight hours. This seems excessive.

Will the minister commit to looking into different flight options between both Yellowknife and Kugluktuk so that our more vulnerable medical clients, like elders or those in wheelchairs, do not have to sit in a plane for such long and uncomfortable hours? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again. Like I said earlier, I will have my medical travel officials update me on when they last communicated with the airlines that serve the Kitikmeot for medical travel purposes and to see what dialogue has been ongoing and what options are available. I will say that when the RFP does close towards the end of March, I do forward to looking at enhanced services where possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 386 – 5(2): Local Housing Organizations

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Good afternoon to Gjoa Haven and my family watching.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the Legislative Assembly approved funding to construct a total of 40 new public housing units in the community of Gjoa Haven between the 2016-17 and 2019-2020 fiscal years in order to help address the extreme housing shortage in the community.

Mr. Speaker, although our community very much appreciates this investment, concerns have been raised that the operational funding provided to the local housing organization has not kept pace with the increase in the housing stock, which caused the emergency services only.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation adjusts the level of funding that is provided to a local housing organization when the number of units in the community increases? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know where he got that information from where we are underfunding his particular community because for each public housing, we have a budget of \$26,500 annually for maintenance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I

talked with the manager. He said that he was always short of staff, so that's where he's coming from, short of staffing in the housing units.

My next question, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2016-17 annual report indicates that there was a total of over \$30.4 million in public housing rent arrears owing to local housing organizations as of March 31, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister himself indicated last week when he spoke about the NHC's new tenant engagement program, our LHOs could do a lot of good work with that kind of money.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to people and companies that do not pay their property taxes, one of the tools that the government has to encourage payment is to publish an annual list of property tax arrears.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if the Nunavut Housing Corporation has worked with local housing organizations to consider the benefits of publishing an annual list of public housing rental arrears that exceed \$5,000? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We're currently doing our LHO management agreement review and whether that particular portion will be included, as the member requests, I don't have that information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your final supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Local housing organizations and Members of the Legislative Assembly need good information on which to make decisions about housing-related issues, and one of the most important sources of information are the annual reports of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. However, an annual report for the corporation has not been tabled since September 2017, during the previous Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify when the 2017-18 annual report will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When it is ready to be tabled, I will certainly do it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 387 – 5(2): Supports for Homeowners

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought you had forgotten about me.

>> *Laughter*

Good day to the people of Amittuq, especially my wife.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, like I said before in my member's statement, I

was going to direct my question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, one of the main components of the Government of Nunavut's long-term housing strategy is to promote homeownership across the territory. Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut corporation provides support and assistance to those who are struggling with homeownership issues and need help resolving them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It depends on what kind of help the homeowner is requesting. In terms of replacing doors, windows, or home deficiencies, we have those kinds of programs, but the client has to come to us and ask for what specific help he or she needs for their home. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that there are a number of programs.

I'll use an example. Emergency assistance for things like fuel tanks is what I am trying to talk about. There are emergency repairs, upgrading, equipment such as fuel tanks, or getting renovations done. We know that not all of us have access to a computer or know how to use one and we do have cellphones available, but the elders are not sure how to operate them.

Can the minister clarify whether the housing corporation has printed information and resources to make available to homeowners in the smaller communities? For example, "This is the number to call if you want to do some renovations, emergency repairs, and upgrading equipment such as fuel tanks." What kind of information do you have available so that the services can be accessed by homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are all aware that the housing corporation is available to provide support and help to homeowners, but the funding we get is very small. We try to help all the people who submitted applications as long as there is money available or they're eligible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe the minister. I indicated last year that there are homeowners who need help. He wasn't aware that there were services and programs available for homeowners who want to do renovations or emergency repairs. With that, Inuit should be...not only Inuit but all homeowners should be made aware that there are programs available, that they can get home heating fuel subsidies and so on.

It is one of the major concerns of homeowners, especially in the winter when it's extremely cold, and there are a

lot of people who think they might be running out of fuel and they don't know whether to turn to the housing corporation or elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, how can the housing corporation help homeowners who are struggling with keeping their homes maintained and safely operational? Do they go to the housing corporation? Do they go to Family Services? Where can they go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We campaign so that we can provide help to the people. They can call their MLA. Should they be running out of fuel and if they need help, you can call (interpretation ends) Family Services. (interpretation) They are responsible for that. That's for the information of the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 027 – 5(2): Use of Contract Services to Perform Functions Intended for Indeterminate Employees

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services. The subject is the use of contract services to perform functions intended for indeterminate employees.

Mr. Speaker, as I have previously stated, I'm very concerned about the practice of using contract services to fill the roles intended for indeterminate employees.

Mr. Speaker, during the winter sitting, we were being asked by the government to vote on a number of positions and the compensations and benefits associated with them, with the intention that they will be going to Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, it appears that we're being asked to vote on these positions and the funding for Nunavummiut while it appears that the departments have no intention of doing so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request detailed information on the following contract services for the 2016-17 *Procurement Activity Report* to identify the scope of the issue and if it is still ongoing.

Further, I would like to request information on the Informatics Cooperative Training Program that the Department of Community and Government Services is working in collaboration with Nunavut Arctic College to provide Nunavummiut with specialization in information technology.

Mr. Speaker, my question is detailed and I request that it be entered into the *Hansard* as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have his questions entered into the record as read. Do you agree? There was a nay. Mr. Lightstone, please read your questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was actually looking forward to the day that the minister would try to deny my intention of producing these written questions, so I am fully prepared to read my questions verbatim.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into the questions, I am producing a figure listing the 65 contracts from the 2016-17 *Procurement Activity Report* related to contracts within the Department of Community and Government Services. Under the description there's a listing of what appears to be job titles.

Mr. Speaker, question 1:

Please provide the organizational chart of the Department of Community and Government Services as of April 1, 2016 which identifies the job titles, pay grades, and whether the positions were filled by an indeterminate employee, a term employee, a casual employee, a contractor, or were vacant. I would like to ask to include the reporting structure for casuals or contractors that are currently working in positions that are not funded.

Question 2 is: in figure 1 please provide the following for each:

- a. The start date of the current contract
- b. The end date of the current contract
- c. If the contract was extended, when was the original start date
- d. How the contract amount was determined
- e. Is the work done by a contractor in Nunavut or out of the territory
- f. If the work was done in Nunavut, what community and what was the duration
- g. Why were the positions contracted

out and not filled by an indeterminate employee, and

- h. What position would have done the same or similar work

Question 3 provides a list of each of what appears to be the job titles and asks to provide the following:

- a. When was the last time the position was advertised
- b. How many times the positions were advertised and when, and
- c. What is the current or most recent job evaluation

Question 4 is:

Please provide the organizational chart for the Department of Community and Government Services as of April 1, 2017 which identifies the job titles, pay grades, and whether the positions were filled by an indeterminate employee, term employee, casual employee, contractor, or were vacant. Once again, please include the reporting structure for casuals or contractors currently working in unfunded positions.

Question 5 is requesting the org chart with the same details as of April 1, 2018.

Question 6:

What role did the Contract Support Division/section that is referenced in the procurement activity report, what role did that section play in preparing the request for proposals and extensions of the listed contract employees?

Question 7:

Does the Contract Support Division/section referenced in the

procurement activity report provide assistance with other departments in procuring contractors to fill the roles and responsibilities intended for employees and, if so, which departments?

Question 8:

When did the Department of Community and Government Services begin working with Nunavut Arctic College on the Informatics Cooperative Training Program to train Nunavummiut in information technology?

Question 9:

How many times has the Informatics Cooperative Training Program been provided and how many graduates did the program produce?

Question 10:

How many of the graduates have worked for the Department of Community and Government Services?

Question 11:

How many of the graduates of the IT program are still currently working for the Department of Community and Government Services?

That concludes my written question and I look forward to submitting more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, it was not the Speaker who heard the minister say “nay”; the Speaker heard a nay. I’m not obliged to say who the nay

came from; I heard a nay, for the record.

(interpretation) 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. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 009 – 5(2): Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 21 will appear on the order paper for Wednesday, March 6.

Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasic.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 129 – 5(2): 2016-2017 Department of Education Annual Report

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the 2016-17 Annual Report for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

**Tabled Document 130 – 5(2):
Constituency Concerns from
Public Meetings in Clyde River
and Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a compilation of prior statements and written concerns expressed to me when I held constituency meetings in my two communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my gratitude to my constituents who took the time to attend the meetings, and constituents raised many issues and concerns, and in particular related categories such as employment opportunities and economic development, and this also included the areas of education, health, major local infrastructure, and harvesting issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Tabled Document 131 – 5(2):
Procurement Activity Report
2016-2017 Contract Detailed
Listing for the Department of CGS**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Friday's deliberations of Committee of the Whole, the topic of contract services filling the roles intended of indeterminate employees was brought up and the minister had requested for me to provide names, times, and dates for the minister to look

into the allegations.

For the minister's benefit, I have compiled the list, which I have included in my written question, that has a breakdown of all the descriptions or job titles as well as the vendors and the amounts paid for each contractor, which I would like to share with the minister and the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Moving on. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:26 and
Committee resumed at 15:50*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, members and Nunavummiut watching TV and listening to the radio.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to

deal with: Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 21. What is the wish of the committee?
Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 Main Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the housing corporation. If time permits, we will then review the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to have officials with me at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. 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 officials in.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Constance Hourie, and my Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Government, Mr. Kyle Seeley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we proceed, I want to do what we were doing on Friday. I want to advise all members that as your Chair, I will exercise my discretion and will recognize members only once on each branch. We are on Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$116,600... . Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at your business plan on page 224, I have a question. At the very top it indicates inspection services from 2018-19 and 2019-2020, inspection services, I see a bit of a decrease in that dollar amount. Is there an explanation in that regard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's due to the decrease in salaries for the three-year term chief elevator officer position, which expires March 31, 2019, and the department has permanently reallocated funds through the Financial Management Board process for this position beginning 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my follow-up question to that is when we're looking at inspection services for Community and Government Services, we all have a CGS department within our relevant communities that we represent. How many times a year are the inspections occurring within our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Things that need to be inspected are on a schedule. For example, particular infrastructure or a building will need to be inspected. When buildings are being built, they have an inspection schedule, and when it is time for the inspection, the inspection occurs. For example, as buildings are being constructed or upgraded, there are fire safety inspections and electrical inspections to make sure that they follow building codes. There are many things that are inspected. Furnaces and boilers are also inspected. Elevators are also inspected as well. They are a part of the inspection process. Stair lifts for people with disabilities are also inspected as per a schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response, which leads me into my next question. On that same page again, on page 224, Priorities (2018-19), I understand that Community and Government Services, in partnership with the Department of Finance, is pursuing continued strategic improvements to the Government of

Nunavut's capital planning process.

In light of all of the inspections that are done by the appropriate inspectors, with your department and in partnership with Finance, how far into the capital planning process are you guys planning on capital projects for Nunavut communities? For the five-year future or for every two years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The planning phase is a five-year planning phase and the basis for preparing a business case to support projects for inclusion in the five-year capital plan. We do that with the Department of Finance and client departments. The business cases that are applicable to capital projects in excess of \$2 million include program needs analysis, operational and functional programs, and integrated community sustainability plans. Consultation goes into that process and comprehensive measures of the highest value options, site analysis and selection, feasibility studies, and so on, Mr. Chairman. It gets quite detailed to ensure that when a project is brought forward, we are getting it built in a timely manner, delivered on time and on budget, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's quite a lengthy list of things to take into consideration. Does forced growth be taken into consideration considering that there are a number of communities in Nunavut that

have had to deal with that due to industry in their backyard? Is that also taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate that question because I think this is happening more and more in communities as mining opportunities and prospecting start to take effect. You see communities like Pond Inlet, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and other communities through forced growth and I think we will continue to see that.

We work very closely with the municipalities and client departments such as the housing associations of the communities and stuff to take a look at where we are and where we feel we are headed. We as community support, we as in the hamlet council, CGS, and other departments within government collectively take a look at where the community is headed, what kind of support it's going to need, and where we could help to make sure that that forced growth is done in a timely and equitable manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to hear that. I'll move on to the next bullet right beneath it, Community and Government Services will work collectively with the Nunavut Housing Corporation in meeting the goals of the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Are there a number of *Blueprint for Action on Housing* on that particular bullet and paragraph? I guess my question here would be: are you guys

looking at five items or two items under the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number, approximately 12, and they include everything from exploring zoning options in the communities and creating electronic filing systems to the many other options within the blueprint for action.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is the lead on this and we're working with them to give whatever support we can in terms of things. For example, if it's lot development and land development in communities, we work with them and the local housing authority and organizations and the municipalities to go over that and try to come up with something that works for everybody.

Again, there are approximately 12 different things we are working with them, but the housing corporation is the lead on that file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to hear that there are two Government of Nunavut departments working collectively. When I look at that, going into the community, we also have hamlet council and housing authority directors. Are they privy to this information or are they apprised of this information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are part of not just giving information but also information from them and with them. They are part of the team to solve these issues. We have very serious issues concerning housing and other issues. All those key players that our colleague mentions, I understand, are part of this solution-seeking. Again, the housing corporation is the lead and we work with them wherever and however we can to ensure those actions are dealt with, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on infrastructure, I'll leave that discretion to the Chair if he wants to allow this question or not.

When I look at Baker Lake, we're definitely dealing with forced growth in our community dump, but also in addition to that with industry right in our backyard, the other thing that we also have to consider now is contaminated soil and maybe relocating our community dump because at a rapid rate, with the forced growth, the life expectancy of our community dump, I guess in my opinion, would be shortened by maybe five years because of the amount of... .

The Hamlet of Baker Lake has been exploring a site within the municipal boundaries to possibly designate as contaminated soil land farming and whatnot. How would the department work with the Hamlet of Baker Lake so that it does not impact the community at large? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I couldn't agree more, Mr. Chairman. I think that the industry that Mr. Mikkungwak speaks of did some tremendous work in your municipal dump in cleaning it up and dealing with proper storage of dangerous goods and the metal. It has gone a long way and I think that helped in making the lifespan of the dump go further and also be more environmentally safe.

In terms of going forward with that, Nunavut needs a solid waste management strategy. We have one and the comprehensive strategy is required to guide the development of effective solid waste management. The Department of Environment is the lead on that. We work with them and the municipality. At such time Baker Lake has to start exploring that avenue, I'm sure we will be well on the way with Environment, ourselves, and the municipality to take a look at some possible sites and so on, but that's looking down the road and I'm sure at that opportune time we would be more than happy to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The business plan indicates that the department had worked closely with the Department of Finance in improving the capital planning process. I would like to ask: what are the current rating criteria that are used when prioritizing capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we do have that detail. Unfortunately we don't have it here. I would be more than happy to provide it to my colleague as soon as we get that detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have stated this before, the fact that interdepartmental capital projects and how they can contribute to considerable cost savings as much as 15 percent. I would like to ask how that is built into the capital project rating criteria to encourage more departments to combine projects in an attempt at cost savings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Ms. Hourie to respond to that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. That kind of ties a bit with your first question. What we will do is respond to that as well when responding to your first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I asked when it would be possible to get a response to my

question, would it be possible to get it before we are asked to vote on the department's budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure our staff are sitting there trying to get that information now. I hope we're able to do that. If not, I will try to have it as early as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is going to be regarding the Capital Projects Division. My first question is: is that the only division in the department that has project managers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have project managers. Mr. Chairman, I believe we have project managers in other sectors of our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Capital Projects Division has a total of 13 positions allocated to it. I'm curious: what is that division standing at capacity-wise? How many of those 13 positions are currently filled by employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. I apologize. What division was that that the member was asking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still on the topic of the Capital Projects Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have 13 person years consisting of a directorate, facility planners, and project managers, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: of those 13 positions, how many are currently filled by indeterminate, term and casual positions? How many of these 13 positions are filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll find out right away and forward it to my colleague, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry we don't have that kind of detail that my colleague is asking for. It's not on purpose by any means.

It's just we will try to get that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is going to be: how many of the 182 positions under the Infrastructure Branch are currently filled by contract service employees or contractors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: One moment, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we don't have that detail, but in terms of contract services, we have a wide variety of contract services that are out for a number of different reasons. It's hard to get that finite detail at this time, but we will work on it, Mr. Chairman. Again, we don't have that level of detail on us and it's unfortunate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is going to be: of the 182 positions under the Infrastructure Branch, how many does the department intend on filling with employees in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and how many positions will be filled by contractors next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We never intend to fill positions on contract, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes it comes to that, but we

intend to fill all, if not as many as we can, of those positions, Mr. Chairman. That's our goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that the minister's statements are factual. I do hope that the department intends on filling these requested positions with employees and not relying on contractors to fill these positions that we're being asked to vote on, but I guess we will find out more when I get a response to my written questions if that is true or not, if the department relies on contractors year over year to fill these positions.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When my colleague says "I hope the minister's statements are actually factual," I wouldn't sit here to try to provide on purpose non-factual statements. That's what we want to strive for, that's what we're striving for, and that is what I want to see. I wouldn't just throw out things like that and hope for the best or shoot for the sky. If I say that's what we're shooting for, that's what we're shooting for, and those statements are factual. There's no need to question whether they're actually factual or not, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I would advise Mr. Lightstone to watch his questions and don't make accusations. Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase that statement.

When looking at some of these contracts that are in the procurement activity report, many of them are above the \$200,000 mark. I believe I saw one for a total of \$250,000. I would first like to ask who in the department has signing authority to sign off on these contracts, if not the individuals that we have before us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister has the signing authority to sign those contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response and I'll follow up with it. Has the individual stated with the signing authority signed off on contracts in the current 2018-19 fiscal year or has the deputy minister signed off on renewing the contracts in the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of which contracts, Mr. Chairman? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was referring to the contract employees that charge \$1,500 a day or over \$200,000 a year. How many of these contracts has the deputy minister signed in the current 2018-19 fiscal year, and how many contracts have been signed for renewal in the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the 2018-19 fiscal year, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase the question. How many contracts has the deputy minister signed in the current 2018-19 fiscal year for contract employees, and how many contracts has the deputy minister signed off on for the renewal of those contracts into the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Yes, the current fiscal year 2018-19 and the renewal of 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification, Mr. Lightstone. We will have to get back to you on those particular details, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that detailed information before us, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask a very straightforward question. The department is requesting 182 positions under the Infrastructure Branch and along with it, \$22 million in salary. I would like to request, in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, how many of those 182 positions will be filled... I would like a guarantee from the minister that in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, those 182 positions and the \$22 million associated with it will be used towards employees here in Nunavut and not contractors residing outside of the

territory. I would like the minister to commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not possible to guarantee, Mr. Chairman. The budget is as such and contracts are part of doing business within our department. There are some positions and jobs that unfortunately we don't have the capability in Nunavut to hire and have those positions full time. Contracts are a necessary part of doing business in Nunavut. To guarantee you that would put some of our projects in jeopardy, Mr. Chairman. I can't say exactly which ones, but contracts are a part of doing business. I can't guarantee that, Mr. Chairman. I think I would put a lot of projects in jeopardy and it's just something that we can't do. I would love to be able to see the day where we don't have contracts within government, but it's part of doing business.

Over the last year you will see that we have gone down in numbers of contracts that are out there and contractors to fill positions, if it's within the different jobs within CGS and we will continue to work on that. Our first priority is and will be to hire and fill those positions locally by Nunavummiut within CGS throughout Nunavut. We have made that commitment. I know that when Ms. Hourie joined our team, we made that commitment to start improving our employees within CGS and employ as many Nunavummiut and as many as possible Inuit and we will continue down that path.

Do we need help and do we need to improve? Big time, without a shadow of a doubt. The numbers that my colleague and colleagues are concerned about, so are we. We would rather not have contracting because if we can hire them full time and move forward, it's better expenditure of our money. We know it's expensive to contract. We realize that. Our department realizes that too and we want to get away from that. We want to hire and retain Inuit and non-Inuit staff from within Nunavut. Can we do that? Yes, we can and we're going to work to improve that.

To guarantee that starting on April 1 we're going to put a stop to contracting, it's just not possible. We are headed down the same path and we have the same wishes as Mr. Lightstone and the rest of my colleagues in this House. That's our goal and we will march down that path. You will see a decrease in contracting and we will continue to fight that battle with you. We're on the same page; we agree for the same thing. Our path is a little slower than yours, but we want to achieve the same thing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for finally admitting the fact that the department is heavily reliant on contract services to fill employee positions. Although it is somewhat contradictory to the prior statements, I'm glad to hear that the minister is finally committed to reducing the reliance on contractors to fill indeterminate employee positions. I look forward to hearing more about when and how the minister will intend on doing so.

I would really like to see the same thing that the minister has just indicated in that these millions of dollars in contract services are going to be spent here at home by employees here in Nunavut. It's just a comment; no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I see the minister wants to comment. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to reiterate, I have always been committed to less contracting and more local Nunavummiut hiring, but in terms of the question that Mr. Lightstone asked earlier that we were going to get information to, Mr. Chairman, if you could allow Ms. Constance to respond to one of those questions before you move on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: I thank the member for the question. With regard to the contracts that we have currently in infrastructure, we have one project officer, we have one fire protection code consultant and plan reviewer, one in building code implementation services. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Don't worry about that. We make mistakes in here all the time. In fact I once forgot to stand up when I started talking the other day, so don't feel bad about that.

(interpretation) I have a question under infrastructure. There was a board there

once. (interpretation ends) Just in terms of the government's capital planning process, I know opinions are like bellybuttons and we all have them.

>> *Laughter*

My opinion from where I sit from my part of Nunavut is that a lot of the decisions are being made in the larger communities, particularly the regional centres. Within the capital planning process, this is my opinion and I'm not putting it out there as fact, but I feel that there's a built-in bias towards the larger communities because that is where most of the decision-makers live. That's why I'm interested; I'll ask these questions.

In terms of these committees, the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, if the minister could clarify, who sits on that committee? Just to speed things along, I have the same question with the ICCP. I just have to look up what that stands for, Interdepartmental Committee on Capital Planning. I'm interested in who sits on these, not necessarily their names but just which officials and where they actually live. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there were only two people that didn't have bellybuttons, but we won't go there.

>> *Laughter*

I'm not one of them.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Community

Infrastructure Advisory Committee consists of three mayors and three employees from the Government of Nunavut. The mayors are from Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, and Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: who sits on the ICCP? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could give Mr. Seeley an opportunity to answer the question on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We do have a variety of committees that are appointed and designated within the administration of infrastructure programming.

As the minister described, the NCIAC is a combination of elected officials, elected mayors, as well as GN bureaucrats located in Iqaluit, and in this case one representative from Baker Lake, with a blend of communities represented.

As far as the additional programs related to infrastructure, they are typically governed by a terms of reference for each of their respective committees with a balance of interdepartmental representation with the departments of Finance, CGS, and other stakeholder departments.

As far as the actual location of the representatives on those respective committees, they are typically located primarily here in Iqaluit in the headquarters office with some representation within the regional offices on the different committees within the infrastructure and the ICCP and the subcommittees within those structures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. For the benefit of our interpreters and listening public, please refrain from using any acronyms whenever possible. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood correctly, all the members of the ICCP are all from Iqaluit with the exception of the one from Baker Lake. I wonder if I understand that correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes. Just one moment, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience. They are almost all from Iqaluit, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think we have to change the composition of the board. It is human nature; we see people on a daily basis and if they're only from one community there is a likelihood that they don't see what is happening at the community level or whether they can

decide what should be placed as a priority or not. We keep saying here in the House that we have to include the other communities and not give more to the larger communities. That is just a comment.

I think we have to change the composition of the board or possibly consider it in the future because it's only (interpretation ends) human nature (interpretation) to look at what's happening where we're based and not the outlying communities.

(interpretation ends) I would like to thank the minister for his letter where he invited members to attend the meeting with the Nunavut mayors and representatives of Inuit organizations. Unfortunately I could not attend committee business to discuss this infrastructure plan. I was just wondering: briefly, what was the feedback from that meeting in terms of engaging with municipalities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we respond to that, I agree with you, Mr. Main, that (interpretation) what you are discussing here is the inclusion of representatives from outside of Iqaluit to sit on the committee you referenced. I know you didn't just bring it up to mention it and we will work to see how we can incorporate more members from places outside of Iqaluit.

Now, we have representatives who have offices outside of Iqaluit who work within the government departments, but

in terms of members completely outside of government, I believe that there is an opportunity through mayors, administrators, and some other category, where we can deliberate upon our choices. I know you meant what you said and we understand that, so we will try to resolve that. You can also remind me by asking what the status of this initiative is.

With respect to this question about how the mayors responded to that, Mr. Chairman, if I could get Mr. Seeley to answer part of the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We're happy to report that last week at the meeting that the member mentioned; I think it's safe to say that it was a very significant success from the perspective of interaction and collaboration between the department and our municipal partners.

The review of Nunavut's long-term infrastructure plan as well as the projects and priorities identified within it was discussed with mayors and senior administrative officers from the participating communities. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators, Municipal Training Organization, and some other federal departments.

This was a very unique opportunity for our department and our team to engage with municipalities on a couple of key elements, one being their infrastructure

priorities within their communities, but perhaps more notably the mayors and the SAOs having the opportunity to identify and comment on territorial priorities that would or could ultimately be located within their municipalities. This has provided the department with some unique insight into the position of the mayors and the SAOs on the potential scope and scale of these interdepartmental and/or departmental initiatives that will naturally need to be located within a Nunavut municipality.

It was a very unique opportunity for us to engage with them, and I think it was a success, a significant one, and I think it will definitely inform our decision-making as a government and as a department moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the report (interpretation ends) right on the first page on this plan it mentions very limited capital resources, infrastructure deficit, and competing needs.

(interpretation) Regarding my two constituency communities, I would want to prioritize the following: health, education, employment opportunities, and housing. These should be our utmost priorities within Nunavut, nonetheless, competing interests, (interpretation ends) just like belly buttons.

(interpretation) Here it speaks about the matter on page 10, where it mentions the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Heritage Centre (interpretation) that would house artefacts that are to be repatriated in the future. Yes, this is an initiative one

would like to support, but we all know that our funding is extremely limited in all of our departments. I know for a fact that this facility won't be built in Arviat, so in that aspect I don't fully support the idea, so it isn't a priority in my eyes at this point in time.

I am throwing it out as an example. We need to look at the basic needs of the community residents and these should be the priority, and perhaps when our economy grows larger, then we can look at this facility down the road, what I call "eye candy," when finances allow. This is just a comment.

(interpretation ends) My last question on this plan here is I just went through and I added up the different projects under the preliminary project plan and it came to about \$2.3 billion, and then there's a bunch of other projects, there's no amount listed because I guess you don't have an estimate yet.

Just to clarify, because a project is listed on this plan, I'll use for example, Arviat campus development through Nunavut Arctic College, just because it's on this plan doesn't necessarily mean that the project has been committed to or that it's really going to happen. My understanding is there are way more projects listed here than there is money. (interpretation) I would like to get clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to these ideas of priorities, we are fairly similar in that regard as every one of us has slightly different priorities.

There are funds that are provided for various mandates such as for housing, health, education, and those types of responsibilities and we wish we could earmark them for other uses, but, some funds are identified as only applicable to the responsibility, so we need to use them for that purpose. This is how the process plays out.

Yes, there are many priorities listed here in the documentation. As you stated, some of the projects listed aren't even funded or specific amounts not identified. However, we tried to list as many projects as possible that communities wanted to see, to identify priorities as well as what they want to envision within our government, within their hamlets and other organizations' priorities. This is why this is written the way it is, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for the questions on this matter.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. In perusing the documentation, one thing that stood out for me that I thought was a good idea was that the Department of Health had been identified for major capital projects. Why? Whenever a proposal comes out, based on my understanding, if the government had identified funds for capital projects, they usually identify which department, but these projects can't be built by the Department of Health based on my understanding. I wonder if any of your officials know this and why this is set up in this manner. Does the federal government identify a ceiling for funding certain projects? I would like to understand that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They usually cap the funding. As an example, when the federal government earmarks specific funding for housing, the funding will appear under the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative program funding for that. This is generally how they identify the funding and sometimes they also allocate one-time funding for other programs that will provide assistance or benefits for youth, sports, and health.

There are some funds that can't be used for education because of the federal government funding, although not all of it but generically when they release the funds, they identify the category that it is for. They identify what parameters the funding can be used for and what activities can't be funded with these funds. We generally follow the requirements identified within our funding agreements whenever we sign off on an agreement. For example, in health it can only be used for these activities. There are some restrictions on the funds although not for all the funds, but for some pots of funding that stem from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that now, and I prefer to see that when health is prioritized by the federal government. I wonder if he meets with his federal counterparts, he would push harder for that. Yes, I know that you aren't the health minister, but this ought to be our highest priority in Nunavut, to support his ministerial colleagues, and I would

love to see that.

Now, my last question relates to the garage fire in Baker Lake. Looking at the pictures, it shows the garage. Though I know that it isn't territorial government property, with respect to detectors, the fire department is responsible for local needs. Are garages equipped with detectors? I am just using this example of the garages because of what happened here.

(interpretation ends) Are parking garages required to have a smoke detector, an auto-dialler type of system for remote monitoring, or is there any type of requirement there or is it just up to the municipality in terms of what they want to have set up? That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I understand, in terms of parking garages, they have to be code compliant and fall in line with what kind of parking garage is it. Is it enclosed, heated, and is it just a shell with a gravel floor? It depends on what kind of building it is. It has to meet the code that it's allocated for and the kind of infrastructure it is, Mr. Chairman. That's the best I can answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're at Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$116,635,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page J-8. This is an information item only, but I will open the floor for any questions on the Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding this item. First of all, a warm welcome to the minister and his officials as sometimes when you feel rushed, you forget to follow protocol or ignore it.

Now, under this plan it lists the amounts for the petroleum prices in each region under petroleum funds starting from November 1, 2018 where the figures were identified. Within the Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot regions, the prices for petroleum products are listed, but they are all different from each other, which is obviously noticeable. I wanted to know what the reasons are for the discrepancies, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these are the prices of the petroleum products for the different types of fuels. The prices are globally set and sometimes they can increase while at other times they decrease, but we try to keep an eye on the prices at all times with our Petroleum Products Division monitoring that. We are impacted by market prices and further, when we purchase fuels, we try to keep an eye on the less expensive fuels when purchasing these products so that Nunavummiut can get their products as cheaply as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just try to clarify so I am completely understood. I will compare these amounts here as to the costs identified by November 1, 2018. For the Baffin region, \$1.07 million to purchase fuel; in the Kivalliq it shows \$1.04 million; and in the Kitikmeot region it shows \$1.12 million. I would like to completely understand if the different prices reflect the distances required to land the fuels in the communities in Kitikmeot. Is that the case? I would like to understand. Alternatively, is it due to the remoteness? I hope I was understood, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I completely understood you. Mr. Chairman, when the government purchases the fuel supply, we buy it in bulk for every community in Nunavut, where it will then be distributed. The fuel has to be shipped to every community from the fuel distributor and the shipping costs vary. For the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot as well as the Baffin region, the costs vary although we try to keep it close. Actually we try to make it as even as possible in terms of the overall costs for the Kitikmeot through the shipping costs and try to set the price. Once the price is set, we can determine the actual costs to ship the fuels and replenish the funds in government coffers so that we can purchase the next year's fuel supply. We look for the lowest cost of fuels, but it always varies slightly in each community because of the shipping costs associated with three regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for clarifying that. With respect to the overall costs of the fuel purchased, in looking at the regions and communities, where does the fuel get distributed from that is shipped to the Kitikmeot? For example, the fuels purchased, where are the fuels distributed from that get shipped to the Kivalliq or are they from one supplier and shipped to the Baffin region as well? As an example, for the Kitikmeot, is the fuel shipped from the Pacific side because they are in closer proximity to the west? Is the fuel bought from the western provinces or from the east coast suppliers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I came across clear.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question correctly, we get the fuel from one source. We buy it in bulk from one distributor and then it gets distributed to the communities. I hope that makes sense, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have quite a few questions. Do homeowners pay a lower cost for home heating fuel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. All fuel for homes and buildings is the same

price. However, businesses get rebates from other departments, but not from our department. Businesses are able to get rebates, but the cost to buy is the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. You mentioned what I was going to ask. If we looked at this proposal, the homeowner would have to pay for the fuel first and then get a rebate afterwards, but what if they're running out of fuel now? We live in the Arctic and we get really concerned about heating fuel in the wintertime. From the government's Petroleum Products Division, can homeowners get a lower cost? Has your department ever thought of lowering the cost of heating fuel for homeowners? It would help a great deal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be very good if we could do that, but then we're not the finance department. We are the Petroleum Products Division and whenever diesel fuel prices go up, that's the price we have to pay. Once the people buy it and the money comes back, those funds are used to purchase more fuel the next time around. We have to make sure that we get the money back so we can have money to purchase more fuel for the next time around.

What you're asking about can be dealt with some other way. We already always try to keep the cost of fuel as low as we possibly can and if we're going to lower the price for private homeowners, then

that money would have to come from somewhere. Someone else would have to pay more. I do agree that it's very hard when you have your own home. It becomes very hard to buy heating fuel. Sometime you've got to make a choice: do we eat or do we buy fuel? Thank you for that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. In your business plan, you would work with the housing corporation. Maybe this can be a part of those discussions. We know that it will cost money, but having private homes can help a great deal. I'm thinking about my constituents; I'm not just thinking about myself.

(interpretation ends) My last question is on the bulk purchase of fuel. I understand that under the new NNI Policy the most recent bulk purchase of fuel was subject to a bid adjustment. Can the minister provide us with the information on that bid adjustment and what the amount of the bid adjustment was specifically? That's what I'm interested in. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One moment, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to find it here as I read through this document, but I don't believe there was a bid adjustment. I stand to be corrected, but there wouldn't be a bid adjustment if there is only one bidder. Let me get back to you, Mr. Chairman, if I can get back

to Mr. Main on that. I don't have that information before me if there was. I'll have to get back to you on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe I'll just request that the minister provide us with the information regarding this recent contract, similar to how the information that is made available for other contracts in terms of the number of bidders, the adjustments that were put in place, similar to the information that's usually available on the Nunavut tenders site. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For sure, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week the minister had committed to tabling the annual report of the Petroleum Products Division. I would like to first ask why it has not been made public yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no legislated requirement for the PPD to produce an annual report, but since I made the commitment to provide it, we will provide it as soon as I can do that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no legislated requirement for me to table a document today, so I don't understand why that would be an excuse not to table the PPD annual report. As the minister stated, he will try to do it as soon as he is capable or able to. I would like to enquire what is preventing him from doing it today or tomorrow and why it hasn't been done yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate his appreciation for that. I will commit to tabling a document that's not required of the PPD. Mr. Chairman, we are a very busy department. We have hundreds of projects on the go. This is our busy time of year and we will provide that as soon as I can. My colleague just listed off a whole bunch of questions that I have to get staff to look into. We are a busy department and this is the PPD's busy time of year. I don't know why it wasn't tabled before other than that because it wasn't a requirement. They are busy.

If we tabled every document that is not required to be tabled, this House would have no room for all the documents that are in it. There are hundreds of reports and hundreds of documents that the government has that aren't tabled. Until we are asked to table it, sometimes that's when we do it. Otherwise we can table hundreds of documents, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate my colleague's patience and the patience of this House that as soon as our department is able to table that document, we will table that document.

It's not a matter of just taking a document and bringing it into this House. It's not that simple. To table a document, it needs to be done in all the official languages and bound and copied into, I believe, 30 copies. Mr. Chairman, that takes quite a bit of work.

Our staff are very busy and I thank them for hurrying up to ensure that this document could be tabled at the earliest convenience, which I'm more than happy to do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. I was curious: when did the Petroleum Products Division adopt a regional or uniform pricing model? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know exactly when that in fact did happen, but I can find out when and how they do this regional pricing or pricing as such. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I can inform the minister. A document that was recently shared with the standing committee indicates that the Petroleum Products Division adopted a uniform pricing model in 2016-17. I was just trying to lead up into my next question. How did the current regional uniform pricing model differ from the previous model? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I don't know, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to get back to my colleague. I would assume that it was on a community-based model where every community had to pay a little different because it takes a little more energy to bring fuel into Sanikiluaq versus Rankin Inlet versus Coral Harbour. I believe it was based on communities and in order to try to alleviate some pressure off some of the smaller communities that it was put into a regional, and in fact we are starting to look at seeing if there is a benefit to a territory-wide pricing for fuel products, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way things are going, I'm sure the minister will not be able to answer the next question, but I'll still ask it anyway in the hopes that I'll get a response at a later date. When the uniform regional pricing model was adopted, at that time did Iqaluit have its own community pricing model and, if not, at what point did Iqaluit get its own price? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Iqaluit is an anomaly in the whole fuel pricing process within Nunavut because the contracting set-up for Iqaluit is different than any other community. They have private fuel dispensaries and they increase their fuel prices after they purchase it from the contractors, so they have always been different in terms of their fuel prices. In fact we're working to uniform them also

so that the Government of Nunavut purchases the fuel for Iqaluit instead of the contractor. That's where the difference is and that's why there is a difference in pricing for Iqaluit, but we're working to make them part of the whole fuel pricing adjustment in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the PPD's current pricing structure match the retail price with the cost of delivering the services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Sorry, is that for Iqaluit, Mr. Chairman? Does the price match...? Could you be a little more specific? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Does the PPD's pricing structure, the regional uniform pricing structure, match the retail price with the cost of delivering services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is how we set our fuel prices: the Government of Nunavut Financial Management Board has the authority to set fuel prices in the communities served by the PPD. The retail price of fuel is based on the following cost components: actual product cost, actual transportation cost, commissions for local fuel distribution services, operation and maintenance

expenses, product evaporation and shrinkage, and taxes where applicable. The sum of these components determines the base cost of fuel and is used to set the overall retail price. That's how it's set across the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Department of CGS submitted the FMB request on behalf of the Petroleum Products Division requesting the FMB to make a decision on the recent increase to the retail price list, what sort of criteria did the PPD and CGS use to justify Iqaluit receiving a higher percentage increase than any of the other regional pricing structures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, the Iqaluit lease and operations agreement with the Uqsuq Corporation had expired on November 30. We're going under a new lease to make it part of our pricing. We purchase fuel for Iqaluit at the same prices and then the contractor purchases that fuel and they make their money back on it. How would I explain it? That's why it's different pricing in Iqaluit. The Iqaluit lease agreement is similar to all the fuel delivery service agreements in Nunavut, but it only differs insofar as the local business responsible for fuel delivery, in this case Uqsuq takes on more fuel responsibility, including purchasing fuel products from the PPD and maintaining ownership until it's sold. They buy it from us and then they resell it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if that's exactly a response to my question. I'm looking at the October 31, 2018 retail fuel price adjustment public service announcement where CGS, on behalf of the PPD, announced that the communities would see an increase of 10 cents per litre and 5 cents per litre net of tax to jet fuel and all diesel products, excluding Iqaluit, which would see a 15-cent per litre increase for both types of fuel. I would like to enquire: what justification is there for Iqaluit seeing a substantially larger increase than that of all of the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Sorry, just a moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would allow Ms. Hourie to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. As the minister had indicated, there are a number of differences when we look at Iqaluit. Iqaluit's lease agreement is similar to all other fuel delivery service agreements in Nunavut but differs as a local business is responsible for fuel delivery and takes on more responsibility, including purchasing fuel products from the petroleum division and maintaining ownership until it's sold, accounts receivable and collection from local consumers, maintenance of the bulk fuel facility and distribution network,

contribution to the capital maintenance reserve, and covering various concessions, agency and administrative fees. It's responsible for the recovery of costs and earns profits associated with delivering these services through a tenant markup fee charged to the government. In other communities the above functions of fuel ownership, accounts receivable, and maintenance are managed by the petroleum division. There is no capital maintenance reserve nor are there the same concessions or agency or admin fees with regard to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to October 31, 2018, were the prices set for Iqaluit not achieving the break-even point? I'm trying to find out why Iqaluit received a higher increase. Was it because the PPD was not recovering all of its costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to get the detail on that back to my colleague. That kind of information, unfortunately, we don't have that detail before us. I would be more than happy to provide it for him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing that information. I'm sure everyone else here in the capital would like to find out more about that as well and it's unfortunate that it wasn't included in the public service announcement of the retail price

adjustment.

My next question, the *Revolving Funds Act* requires the PPD to operate at a break-even basis. In the most recent fiscal years, has the PPD been meeting that break-even point and, if not, how much accumulated surplus is being transferred to the GN Consolidated Revenue Fund every fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be fine in terms of surplus of funds. We can't have too much of a surplus and we can't be under. There's that range we have to be within and we're well within that range at this time, Mr. Chairman. We should be okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm curious if the prices of the retail fuel have been set too high and if the PPD has in fact exceeded their allowable revenue or stabilization fund amount. How much did they exceed that threshold and how much was the PPD required or forced to transfer to the Consolidated Revenue Fund last year and the year before? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been able to keep the fund within the PPD. In the 2017 audit it recorded a modest \$1.7 million profit on revenue of \$197.2 million. The stabilization fund balance now is at \$8.8 million. Despite increasing retail prices

effective November 1, 2018, it forecast a net loss of \$6.1 million, which will be absorbed by the \$8.8 million surplus in the stabilization fund. We will be performing further retail price analyses following the winter season and put forward recommendations to the FMB accordingly, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to learning more about that once the annual reports are tabled.

My next question is: why is that the Iqaluit wholesale price is not made public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know. I don't see why it wouldn't be made public, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that from the minister. I would like to ask that going forward on future public service announcements regarding the fuel price adjustments if that wholesale price could be included in the tables provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where it doesn't break any rules, policies, and procedures to do so, we would, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question was going to be about the fuel resupply. The minister had mentioned that there is a sole contractor that provides the fuel distribution and I was curious who that provider is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's AV Nunavut Fuels and Woodward's Oil. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: for those two providers, are they required to provide any amount of Inuit participation or Inuit employment in fulfilling their contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to check the tender documents that were put out when that went out for tender to see what requirements there were pertaining to that, Mr. Chairman. We just don't have that information before us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked is because Nunavut Sealink has tremendous amount of potential at providing employment to Nunavut and I just think it would be something to keep in mind going forward, the possibility of including Inuit employment on those tanker ships.

I think it would be a benefit to many communities. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I choose not to throw out names of other companies out there, but the shipping company that was awarded the contract, the application of the NNI Policy was applied during the RFP process. AV Nunavut Fuels is an NNI and NTI registered company, just for your information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is...sorry. I was curious. I'm assuming that the QEC is the largest consumer of petroleum products in the territory. I was wondering what the minister's thoughts are of whether or not the QEC should take over the management of the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Or should the PPD take over the management of the QEC? I don't know, Mr. Chairman. I don't have an opinion on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My question involves a federal government direction that will affect all of Canada, including Nunavut and those

travelling to Nunavut. Earlier I spoke about some communities in Nunavut that have mines nearby, but my question is what the decision of the federal government means to those communities.

Regarding the Petroleum Products Division, the dialogue between the federal and territorial governments, and if you should still be negotiating, could you give us an update on the carbon tax? Would that increase the price of fuel in Nunavut or are you still negotiating with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about it, not only our department but the government as a whole and I cannot respond to your question, but it will have an effect on all of Nunavut. The government is working on the carbon tax issue and what they are going to be doing once it is imposed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Now, he just stated that we are still at the negotiation stage. Now, as the MLA representing Baker Lake, I can't speak for the other communities as they have their own MLAs representing them. Nonetheless, I think it would help if the federal government could hear this message that they have to respect our environment as we live in the arctic region. Our winters are longer and with the number of mines being developed,

they are starting to employ a large number of people.

Further, we are discussing connections, although on a regional scale, as a highway would need to connect to southern provinces as we want a land connection. However, the exorbitant capital costs are holding us back, and I wanted the government to be aware of our unique situation. That's just a comment. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That was just a comment. If you want to... . Thank you. The next name on the list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On May 16, 2002 the Government of Nunavut's *Ikuma II Report* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This report recommended the establishment of a new Qulliq Fuel Corporation which would assume the responsibilities of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services and would operate alongside the power corporation.

I'll switch to English. (interpretation ends) Looking at the department's draft 2019-2022, page 226, one of the goals for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, this year and next year, is to "Perform an analysis of various structural and corporate options for the division." Is your department actively considering the option of establishing a new Qulliq Fuel Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a steering committee

that has been established to provide oversight and it's comprised of the following members: CGS, Finance, EIA, Justice, the QEC, and the project manager from the PPD to take a look at those very things, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is still on the same page. (interpretation) Here it also indicates that the tank farms in Nunavut, those huge holding storage tanks, are said to have a lifespan of 20 years before any corrosion starts. It indicates here that the department will "Develop a strategic plan or addressing maintenance of bulk fuel storage facilities..." I'm not sure what they're called in Inuktitut, but we have had Nunavut for 20 years. How many fuel storage facilities have reached their lifespan? That's what I would like to understand and that's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS is currently coming up with a 20-year plan and also looks at whether the storage tanks will have to be repaired, upgraded, or enlarged. That plan will be ready by the end of March. It will mostly focus on what has to be fixed because we have to follow rules and see where it has to comply with the law or how old the storage tanks are. That plan should be completed by the end of this month and we will make sure that we give you copies through your chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more

names on my list. Go to page J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$255,647,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, do you have closing comments? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize how hard it is to sit here, *ilaa* I know how hard it is to sit here and go through the budget in detail. Sometimes it's a daunting task and unfortunately we're just not able to have all the information that is being asked readily at hand. We can access some of it quicker than others. I'm glad we have cellphones now, so we were able to answer some of the questions Mr. Lightstone had.

If there's additional information you need, please don't wait for session and stuff to ask for that information. I would be more than happy to share it with you. I have said time and again, thank you for your patience, thank you for your questions, and I look forward to working with you throughout this session.

I thank last but not the least the two employees beside me. They work very hard and even more so the staff out there within CGS and the PPD. They really work hard. We have a lot of work to do out there and they do tremendous work out there and I will never hesitate for a

moment to back for any of the CGS staff out there. I appreciate all the work they do and I appreciate your time. Thank you for passing my budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will take a 15-minute break while we set up for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

>>Committee recessed at 17:34 and resumed at 17:49

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Netser: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Netser, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Terry Audla, our President of the Housing Corporation, and to my left is Ji Liu, our Chief Financial Officer and (interpretation ends) Vice-president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Chairman and members. I am here to present the 2019-2020 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation reflect the following spending increases:

- Public housing expenditures will rise by \$7,544,000. As the Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing portfolio increases so do the costs of maintaining our units. Between 2018-19 and 2019-2020 the Nunavut Housing Corporation will add an additional 200 housing units to the public housing stock. The budget increase of \$7,544,000 will cover increased cost of maintenance and administration, utilities, property taxes, and land leases in the public housing portfolio.
- There is also a \$611,000 increase in funding to cover the net reduction in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funding. That's the funding we get from them, Mr. Chairman.
- Staff housing expenditures will rise by \$4,457,000. As the Nunavut Housing Corporation's staff housing portfolio increases so do the costs of maintaining our units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will be adding

23 new staff housing units for 2019-2020 and the Nunavut Housing Corporation has requested an additional 44 units as well for 2019-2020.

Also offsetting the 2019-2020 funding increases will be an increase in public housing annual rent assessments from \$15,560,000 to \$16,940,000. This \$1,380,000 increase is largely driven by an increase in new public housing units being constructed over recent years, resulting in increased costs for O&M. As a result of these offsets, on balance the GN funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for fiscal year 2019-2020 will increase by \$10,169,000 as compared to the 2018-19 main estimates.

My officials and I are pleased to start working on the implementation of the government's mandate and to continue responding to the needs of Nunavummiut for safe and affordable housing, including support for elders. Much of this work will be carried out through the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, which has been reaffirmed by this government. With year 2 of implementation having come to a close with the fiscal year 2018-19, we are beginning to reflect on the positive impacts the blueprint has had in fostering collaboration and enthusiasm across the government.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently working to update staff housing and homeownership programs, which will improve how we respond to housing needs across the territory while supporting a more complete spectrum of housing options. Coinciding with this work is a renewed focus on developing transitional housing options in

collaboration with the Department of Family Services, Health, and Justice through the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will be focused on establishing and sustaining strategic partnerships to meet the needs of people in our communities. For example, we will be renewing collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and our regional Inuit associations on joint priorities under the blueprint for action to address Inuit housing needs in Nunavut, including collaboration on joint lobbying efforts aimed at the federal government.

Our work to ensure that the National Housing Strategy meets the needs of Nunavummiut continues. In 2018 Nunavut was part of a joint endorsement of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Framework, a multilateral agreement under the National Housing Strategy.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently negotiating a nine-year bilateral agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This agreement with the federal government will provide sufficient flexibilities for implementation of the funding within the challenging northern housing context and in a way that meets Nunavut's unique needs.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to implement its Inuit Employment Plan and we will work to provide opportunities for recruitment, training, and advancement for Inuit within the corporation. This includes internships, career broadening and leadership training opportunities.

In conjunction with this, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working with the local housing organizations (LHOs) to establish a continuum of Inuit employment from the communities into our district offices, headquarters and directorate, as we support the LHOs, or local housing organizations, to improve operational efficiencies and services.

I am pleased to report that work continues to progress on the Nunavut Housing's public housing mould remediation project. To date all LHOs, or local housing organizations, have received mould remediation training, which has provided them with the skills necessary to address level 1 and level 2 mould in their communities. This project represents a significant logistical undertaking and the corporation is working within these constraints. I will update the Legislative Assembly on this project.

My officials and I are ready to answer any questions you may have regarding our 2019-2020 main estimates and business plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, members.

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 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates of \$211,265,000 represents a 5.1 [percent] increase from the 2018-19 fiscal year. The number of positions in the corporation has increased by 4.0 PYs to a total of 123.0 PYs, which represents a 3.4 percent increase from its 2018-19 main estimates.

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

On October 20, 2016 the *Blueprint for Action on Housing - Implementation Plan for the Government of Nunavut Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This document contains 60 specific action items that are intended to address an extremely broad range of housing issues. The standing committee recognizes that it is not practicable for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to simultaneously implement all of the blueprint's action items, and again encourages the corporation to prioritize its work in a clear and focused manner.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that "A nine-year bilateral agreement between NHC and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is expected to be signed prior to April 1, 2019, along with an action plan for the first three years of implementation of new construction and major renovations. The Nunavut funding package also includes \$40 million federal funding over nine years to freeze the decline of public housing operations and maintenance funding from the Canada Mortgage and

Housing Corporation.

(...) An agreement is anticipated to be signed and the related funding to begin flowing in April 2019. The agreement has been adjusted with respect to some Nunavut-specific requests and content. The agreement will be supported by a federally-required, made in Nunavut action plan addressing the initial three years of funding implementation in the territory. Nunavut Housing Corporation and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation continue to co-design a program to deliver funding specific to the Canada Housing Benefit stream (within the larger National Housing Strategy), which will begin flowing in" the 2020-21 fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of the new agreement and action plan.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2018-2021 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year was to "Engage with Regional Inuit Associations on potential collaborations to provide affordable housing for Inuit on Inuit owned land, including potential P3 [or Public-Private Partnerships] opportunities." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that the corporation and the regional Inuit associations "established better information sharing during 2018-19; however, further engagement will be necessary in 2019-20 on affordable housing and development issues as a means of identifying potential collaborations." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates

that one of its priorities over the next three fiscal years is to “Implement an improved organizational structure in the Qikiqtaaluk District.” The standing committee encourages the minister to clarify what specific problems have necessitated this action and what specific changes are being planned.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that it “...will be making specific efforts to strengthen its relationship with Local Housing Organizations by implementing an updated and user friendly Management Agreement. The implementation of the agreement will help to foster an up to date relationship between the NHC and the LHOs that is reflective of current legislation, policy and practice.” The standing committee looks forward to the updated Master Management Agreement being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

In 2004 a Member of the Legislative Assembly asked a detailed written question concerning public housing rental arrears and tenant damages. The government’s response indicated that as of November 2004, approximately \$6.6 million was owed in public housing rental arrears to local housing organizations across the territory. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2014-15 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2015, indicated that “The over \$27 million in rental arrears currently owed to the NHC could pay for the construction of almost 60 new public housing units.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2016-17 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 19, 2017, indicates that there was a total of

\$30,479,000 in “rent receivables” owing as of March 31, 2017. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that it has “...continued to work with each of the Local Housing Organizations to ensure that the full collection process as per the NHC Collections Policy is followed. As of September 2018, the territory wide collection rate was 83%.” The standing committee is encouraged by this progress.

On January 24, 2013 the Government of Nunavut announced changes to the public housing rent scale. These changes came into effect on February 1, 2014. A key goal of reforming the public housing rent scale has been to remove disincentives to employment. However, the extent to which the new rent scale has achieved this goal remains unclear. The standing committee notes that Action No. 12 in the *Blueprint for Action on Housing - Implementation Plan for the GN Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will “review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent- geared to income.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2016-17 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 19, 2017, indicates that “Only 2% of [public housing tenants] earn over \$100,000 a year.” The standing committee notes that the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that one of its specific action items is to “...review possible development of a fixed-rent subsidized housing model targeting high-income public housing tenants; particularly those

currently paying maximum rent in public housing.” The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s *Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* states that “Staff housing should provide new employees who move into market communities with a home until they become settled. These employees should be encouraged to move into the private sector or discouraged from remaining in staff housing...” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that “A review of the Government of Nunavut staff housing policy was undertaken in 2018-19. Going forward, the Department of Finance, the Department of Human Resources, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation will collaboratively develop program enhancements based on the results of the review.

(...) A review of the current prioritization system and process for allocating staff housing units was completed, with anticipated approval for an updated policy in 2019.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2018-2021 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year was to “Continue the process of identifying unused residential units in communities for possible use in public or staff housing, and identifying, where possible, local redevelopment possibilities.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that it “has continued this practice, which resulted in the repair and transfer of four off-line staff housing units in Pangnirtung to public housing stock.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s budget for its homeownership programs is funded through its annual capital estimates. The corporation’s 2019-2020 capital estimates, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly during its recent fall 2018 sitting, included a total of \$4,616,000 in funding for homeownership programs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2018-2021 business plan indicated that it was undertaking a “Homeownership Program Review.” However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2019-2022 business plan does not clearly indicate if this review has been completed.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2016-17 annual report under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 19, 2017. The 2017-18 annual report has not yet been tabled. The 2018-19 *Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Housing Corporation* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 14, 2018. The response to the letter of expectation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, 2018. The letter of expectation states in part that the corporation is expected to provide “A yearly comprehensive report on all procurement, contracting and leasing activities...” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2016-17 annual report on contracting, procurement and leasing activities was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, 2018. The 2017-18 annual report has not yet been tabled.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed

2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do members have any general comments before we go page... ? Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials.

I heard some good news here that we will support our elders more. I always try to talk on behalf of our elders. Now, before we attained Nunavut and before we even had houses, they grew up here in igloos and other shelters like tents. Let's always work hard for our elders.

If we see the proposed budget for this coming year, I want you to keep this in mind: whenever one elder is thankful, their appreciation is endless. Their gratitude is bigger than the money you handle here. It's great that you're going to be considering the elders.

I would also like you all to consider the communities that don't have elders' care facilities. I would like you all to consider that as well. My community has been requesting a building for the elders. If the communities that don't have buildings for elders are going to be supported more through here, then we will be more grateful because our elders worked very hard to survive.

Even though nothing is cheap these days, I said that I would always speak on behalf of the elders and I will continue doing that until my term ends. It's also because I grew up with elders. Both

elders worked hard, kept us from being hungry, tried to treat us equally, asked us to work together at all times and to provide assistance to our fellow Inuit when we had the ability. This is the way of Inuit.

In seeing the situation faced by our elders today, their numbers are dwindling and the next generation that will become our elders will be the next to face these challenges. This generation also worked really hard in trying to survive due to the miniscule amount of their elders' pensions. They strive to survive on a pittance, but you see them stretching it out.

Now, if you were able to provide further support for that generation, but then again, we all face our hardships throughout life, even just as adults as life happens. Many people wait for a long time for a home. If you could create something where we could support the elders more, it would be very good because the lack of houses... I have a lot of compassion towards homeless people and we're not quite sure how to help them. I want to help them, but how can I help them?

Looking at the money that we have available, they always have a limit. Is this going to help with homelessness? If there is an elder facility, the elder's children could be there too. That would help a lot. Homelessness in general could be lessened a little bit. There are many homeless people that people don't see every day. They're concerned, they're embarrassed, and they don't know where to turn to.

All of these concerns would be lessened if we could provide something for our

elders because our elders tell us, like what I said, one elder's gratitude is bigger than any expensive thing you can buy. The elders help us with the heart. When they thank you from the heart, from the mind, it's all encompassing.

It's great to see that you're going to be considering helping the elders in the coming year. Maybe I can also say there are also those people who are in the middle, who are not young anymore and not elders, they are in the middle, just general adults. They should be considered as well with assistance through funding.

Some people try to work and they have to pay for so many things for the home, they have to feed their children, and even though they're working, the money that they were going to use for something else ends up being used to pay for the house. You should think about those people as well. Don't think about the costs so much; just think about those people who try to work hard too. Information from them can help too. If we help them, then they will have more incentive to work. I would also like you to look into those people who try to work and rent a house from housing associations.

As you go higher in the Arctic, the price of food goes up. When they're thinking about buying hunting equipment, it would be great for their children to go hunting as well and the elders do that. When adults who rent from public housing have children, they're probably always worried. Everybody in Nunavut is probably worried.

I was just saying that I liked hearing what the housing minister mentioned

about the elders and that they will be included. That's all I wanted to say. An elder came to me once and told me, "Try to think of ways to help when you're sitting at the Legislative Assembly." There are many elders who can't speak in public. They wanted me to speak for them and maybe their concerns will be heard.

I will work very hard on behalf of the elders and speak on behalf of the elders, as well as the adults in the middle, especially the young people. The young people work hard too. When they don't have a home, they go through a lot more hardship and they want to ask people, but then they worry if they ask a question. They are embarrassed to ask a question like, "If I go there, they're just going to tell me something." I would like you to think about that as well because we have to work hard about homelessness as well.

I became an MLA because I want to help my constituents and I will work hard for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to make those comments.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. General comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the year 2013 the tenant rent scale was adjusted to encourage employment. Looking at the rents calculated, some tenants pay \$1,143 a month in rent. I have read that the housing corporation will review the rent scale every five years. The five years have come and gone and the rent scale hasn't been readjusted for tenants. What is the status of this?

I have been approached by my

constituents in Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet who have stated that it's costing so much to rent a public housing unit that they don't want to work anymore. We have to look at this issue carefully, as they have stated that they will review the rent scale for the entire territory. That's my first comment.

The other comment, Rankin Inlet, like Baker Lake, has forced growth in the community due to mining. My colleague from Baker Lake mentioned forced growth. We're short of houses in Rankin Inlet. There are 121 people who have no houses and it's more than that as some are hidden homeless.

I had a meeting with the housing association and I was surprised to see our meeting place full of homeless people, men, young people, and mothers. It seems rather urgent and the minister stated that he will be speaking with the mining industry to see how they can help with housing. The mining companies have to help with housing and the housing corporation has to work with these companies.

I have also seen a homeowner, a female widow who has a home without a door. I wrote to the housing corporation and called them so that they can work on the house, but when I checked in, nothing had been done.

I found out about another widow trying to work on her own floor. She did put in a request to the housing corporation. I also wrote about that one and asked if she received assistance from the housing corporation. She said that no, nothing has come up. That's in Rankin Inlet.

In Chesterfield Inlet, as the minister is

aware, a widow has her own house. She requested emergency funds from the housing corporation and was approved and then disapproved.

These are some of the instances where we need to protect our constituents from the housing corporation. I have more comments, but I shortened it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials.

First of all, I am glad to hear that you're coming to Arviat to see your decentralized location. You will see a lot of hard-working people in that office. The housing association in Arviat has a whole workforce from the community. The local housing association office is getting old. Don't be too shocked. It has been added onto and added onto, and it's so patched up that you can't even tell how big it used to be. You will be aware when you go there.

You also have a (interpretation ends) headquarters office (interpretation) in Arviat as part of the decentralized model for the housing corporation. You will also see that office at the blue building for sure. However, I regret that I won't be in Arviat while the minister is there. I do support the work that you are undertaking. I will have questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and the officials. On general comments I'll be very brief. I'll try to be brief anyway.

In considering your operations and maintenance budget submissions, where I'll be focusing in on is... . What I'm thinking is the Nunavut Housing Corporation should take into consideration where the community is currently situated. For example, in Baker Lake we have some units that are being mould remediated, and at the same time the last build was five staff units and we didn't get any public housing units.

When I look at the listing, Baker Lake is not really up there due to not very many people in Baker Lake completing to be on the wait-list, but I think that's where the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in partnership with the local housing authority, could improve. When you consider, as I have been indicating, forced growth, when I look at the forced growth, I see that as untapped revenue for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Possible tenants, that revenue is not being accessed. In my opinion, if there were public housing stock to be constructed in Baker Lake, you could have revenue coming in and at the same time possibly the debt repayment plan could be adjusted if they started seeing construction.

In light of that, I look forward to the questions during the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the responses that we are receiving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Before we proceed, I want to advise all members that as your Chair, I will exercise my discretion and will

recognize members only once on each branch. Thank you. We're on page M-3, but details are beginning on page O-IV-1. Headquarters. That's where the pages start. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll begin my questions with your Inuit employment plan. At 36 percent, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is performing very poorly on this front, and I'm glad to see that you're projecting targeting an additional eight positions to be filled by Inuit by the end of 2019-2020. I would like to first enquire what positions that you have targeted to fill in 2019-2020 by Inuit employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all want to see Inuit employment numbers go up throughout the government. That is one of our goals. In terms of our *Turaaqtavut* mandate, that is something that we will continue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll detail my question a bit further. In your Inuit employment plan you have identified one middle management position, two professional positions, and two paraprofessional positions. For the record for the general public listening, can you identify what those positions are and how you would like to get them filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) As of December 2018, the NHC had 35 staffing vacancies throughout its Nunavut offices; 17 of the 35 vacancies are on hold as the positions are currently filled by casuals, secondment, or internal transfer assignments.

There are 15 staffing competitions currently underway; 8 are in Iqaluit, 3 in Arviat, 1 in Kinngait, and 3 in Iqaluktuuttiaq. The NHC is actively working to reduce significant vacancy rates and meeting its Inuit employment targets.

In the senior management employment category, the Nunavut Housing Corporation supports an Inuit employment plan level of 13 percent, a 19 percent level in the management category, 0 percent in the professional category, 42 percent in the paraprofessional category, and 92 percent in the administration support category.

Nunavut Housing continues to support the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to implement and improve a comprehensive Inuit employment plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next line of questioning and that's staff housing and Inuit participation. In response to my written question, the Nunavut Housing Corporation had a mere 9 of 51 employees in staff housing, with Inuit in staff housing in the Nunavut Housing

Corporation representing 17 percent.

I would like to enquire if the minister has identified this as an issue and how or what type of a corrective action will be taken in 2019-2020 to ensure more Inuit working for the Nunavut Housing Corporation will take advantage of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of what you have mentioned, that is our goal. We are training Inuit and we all want to see Inuit employed in these positions. I will ask my deputy to speak to this question in more detail, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the question, as it stands right now with staff housing, when you look at the staffing complement of the housing corporation, they all tend to be within the housing corporation either middle management or paraprofessional level type with some senior management. Based on that, we don't have as many administrative type positions and positions that would normally be filled by Inuit.

If we were to count all the LHOs, obviously our numbers would be really high when it comes to Inuit employment levels. As an example, the member from Arviat had mentioned the 100 percent complement of 31 staff from the community of Arviat are all Inuit, but we don't include those numbers in our Inuit Employment Plan.

With respect to staff housing, overall we have been working with the Department of Finance to work on improving the number of Inuit in actual staff housing. Through the new process that will be looked at by the cabinet, we are looking towards seeing what we can do to try to increase the amount of Inuit within staff housing overall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that the NHC is working with Finance to find out a way to get more Inuit in staff housing. I would like to know specifically what the Nunavut Housing Corporation will do in 2019-2020 on your own and your own initiatives to ensure that more of your Inuit staff or other Inuit who aren't yet your staff will see an increase in staff housing participation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Through the Inuit Employment Plan, we will try to address the member's concerns. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next topic. Another written question I had put forward was on education leave utilization. I was glad to see that there were three employees at the Nunavut Housing Corporation taking advantage of the GN's generous education leave policy, but unfortunately there were zero Inuit taking part in that program.

Has the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation identified that as an issue and, if so, what will the minister do in 2019-2020 to try to encourage more Inuit to take part in the education leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, as I said, I would like to see more Inuit go up to the higher levels of employment in the years to come. We will encourage our Inuit employees to take the education leave, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation ever sent an Inuk employee off on education leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have anything in writing indicating that. As my deputy indicated, we have yet to see Inuit take education leave in order to take on higher levels of employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. Your business plan indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation signed an MOU to assume the responsibility of the staffing function whereas the Nunavut Housing Corporation intends on conducting their own recruitment process in 2019-2020. I

would like to hear more about how that decision came about. Why did the NHC request this responsibility and how does it foresee taking on that responsibility as a benefit for the corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my deputy. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's true that we are currently looking at an MOU arrangement with Finance and HR and potentially the new iteration of the new HR department come April. It's based upon the fact that we have reviewed the current vacancy and the vacancy rate that we have within the corporation and at the same time knowing that the NHC Act as well speaks to the actual specific authority that the president and CEO would have under that Act. We're in the process of trying to figure out whether the MOU would work toward addressing that or whether the new iteration of the HR department would actually address some of the issues that we have with respect to some of the vacancy rate that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this does come to fruition in 2019-2020, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation foresee the requirement of creating a new recruitment position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to assume it's just going to be one position. Considering that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has a total of 123 positions, how many positions are advertised annually, and will they be suffice to keep one individual busy throughout the year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my deputy is responsible for employees within our corporation, I would appreciate it if he can respond to this question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Chairman, the current HR process we do have three individuals within the corporation right now. Based on the 400 LHO employees that we also provide support for in the aspect of either screening and/or any disciplinary requirements and/or any collective agreement type of situations, we do provide a lot of support to the local housing authorities. As an exercise through that, we have more or less costed out or not necessarily costed out but actually based on the time we have figured that the amount of support that we to provide to local housing organizations comes out to about four

PYs in the aspect of the amount of support that we provide to the local housing organizations.

We're hoping that at some point in time, whether or not we can go through our own internal corporation vacancies on an annual basis, we fill about two or three positions, but with respect to the LHOs, that number exponentially rises. It's also based on the HR issues on an ongoing basis when it comes to either disciplinary requirements and/or monitoring and/or HR investigations, fact-finding, all of that. We are quite busy in that aspect of it. It's not solely on the hiring aspect of that. There is quite a bit involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'll move on to my next topic. As was touched upon in the standing committee's opening remarks, the 2017-18 annual report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation is still outstanding. Over the years typically that has been tabled in the fall sitting. My first question is: why has this yet to be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the member's question on the delay with the tabling, there was a cabinet shuffle in the fall and the (interpretation ends) Auditor General of Canada's (interpretation) report were the reasons why we haven't tabled the annual report in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's yet to be tabled due to the cabinet shuffle and the Auditor General's report in the fall sitting. Now we're more than halfway through our winter sitting and we still have yet to see this annual report. Might I ask why it has yet to be tabled so far in this winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We might be tabling the report that the member is asking about during this current sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next topic. I recently submitted a written question on the homeownership program. Well, I submitted two questions and one of them was on the Inuit participation in the homeownership program. I would like to enquire if the minister has identified any issues in relation to Inuit participation in the homeownership programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the member's written question, we have 21 days to respond to it and we can ask for an extension. To date I can't respond to it as we still have 21 days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware of the 21-day requirement, but it's not mandatory nor does it prevent me from asking the question orally. I would like to ask the question again: has the minister identified Inuit participation in the homeownership programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the homeownership programs, we don't look at whether they're Inuit or some other race. We look at the criteria and either approve or disapprove the application. Those programs are available to all Nunavummiut and not just for Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that the homeownership programs are for Nunavummiut, not just Inuit, but I would also like to point out that on the homeownership application, there's a checkbox for applicants to acknowledge whether or not they are Inuit. I would like to ask why the Nunavut Housing Corporation requires applicants to identify whether they're Inuit or not and not doing anything with that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. For potential Inuit participation in these programs that we roll out for our people, that's why that check mark is in there.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are four more PYs that the housing corporation is proposing based on the documentation, if I understood it correctly. I would like to know where these new positions will be located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of those four PYs, three are going to be in Arviat. We are not sure where the fourth position will be yet. We will let you know once we have that information. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is exceptional to hear that three new PYs will be added to the Arviat offices. That is good to hear. I thank you for that and ask for more PYs, please. The office is one that I visit on occasion as it is the (interpretation ends) headquarters office, (interpretation) but in looking at the space, it has room for more employees. That's just a comment.

(interpretation ends) I made this point already, but I guess I'll just reiterate that I think your business plan could be further refined. You have a unique format where you have two sets of priorities for each branch and it would be nice to have them shortened down. Throughout the whole government I think this might be one of the longer business plans. That's just a comment,

but I do know that you put a lot of work into this.

(interpretation) In speaking about the need for cooperative or collaborative efforts in the mining sector, there is language here on (interpretation ends) page NHC-10 (interpretation) speaking about the MOU with Agnico Eagle and the government and housing is mentioned. What is the status of that initiative? When can we expect any progress or updates on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're still working with Agnico Eagle Mines as to how we can maybe have a partnership with them in addressing homeownership for their employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are there any specific models that have been discussed with Agnico Eagle? It's quite exciting because we're talking about homeownership and we're talking about leveraging private dollars. We are always saying there's not enough money for public housing. I think the model that we have right now is not sustainable as a territory. We need to have more homeowners. We need to find a way to have more of our residents in their own homes or renting from private landlords or what have you.

In terms of specific options, is there anything in place yet or anything being

discussed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're in the preliminary stages of reaching out to them and that will come down the road as we further get into the program. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a suggestion, when you do get further down the road with that program, it would be interesting to see what they have to say about the logistics, the materials, and the actual building of the houses. I know that the housing corporation is the authority on housing in the territory, but Agnico Eagle, for example, has a lot of expertise when it comes to logistics and they're very good at doing things very quick and in a cost-effective manner.

On page 11 right about halfway down the page it mentions working with other departments and territorial corporations in terms of the NNI Act and regulations. Are there any specific issues that the corporation is facing with regard to NNI? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, if my president could answer that specific question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't say anything specific. There are a number of factors of how we can try to go about increasing Inuit labour content and usage of local businesses as well as hotels, but that's something that I believe is an overall GN discussion. We have already initiated the discussions and we're in the process of looking at some of the options with respect to how we can go about the enforceability aspect and how we can ensure that local usage, local content, Inuit employment and labour, and long-term initiatives can be looked at in some way, but it's very preliminary at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. You mentioned Inuit employment. I'll leave it open like that. In recent memory, I know you have different Inuit employment levels for each community. It depends on the labour force. It depends on the contractor. What's the high score? What's the highest Inuit employment that has ever been achieved on a public housing or staff housing build? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: That's a very good question. I don't think we have any answers to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll turn it back to the minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I should say that I know that in certain communities the Inuit employment on certain contracts or housing construction are really high and we're really proud of that, especially in my two communities, Coral Harbour and Naujaat, where they have housing construction, a lot of our labourers are maybe 80 to 90 percent, especially in Coral Harbour, 99 percent of it is Inuit. We're really proud of that. As for the communities, I don't have those details at all. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll just leave that as a comment. I think it's something that would be interesting to see more information on because you hear things like, "Well, we could have more Inuit employment, but it's going to cost us more. The contractors are going to charge us more." I think that may be true, but if we take a holistic look at it and we say, "Okay, well, we could save money on the capital side of things," but here you have the Department of Family Services that is paying people income support. It's just an interesting relationship between those Inuit employment levels and the cost per unit that I think would be interesting to see

more information on at some point in the future. (interpretation) I don't really have a question. I'm done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That was just a comment. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in 2013 the government announced that the rental scale for the tenants was going to be reviewed after five years had passed. In reading this document produced by the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation) this was contemplated in previous years but was not identified as being applied towards the rental scale.

Unfortunately I will have to speak in English. (interpretation ends) In looking at the 2019 draft plan for housing, even though the government stated in 2013 they would review the rental scale, why does the Nunavut Housing Corporation draft plan not make any reference to the public housing rental scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mainly to the fact that we don't have a copy of that 2013 report she is alluding to. If she has a copy, we would like a copy of that so we can have a proper response to that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you. I do have a copy and it was during the poverty

reduction roundtable that the rent scale was introduced five years ago and it was to reduce poverty and prevent any [disincentives] to employment. The public rent scale, after the government introduced it, was going to be reviewed after five years, which is this year or last year.

However, my final question is: what is the meaning of page 4 of the action plan, the fourth paragraph? "The Nunavut funding package also includes \$40 million federal funding over nine years to freeze the decline of public housing operations and maintenance funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation." Is this telling me that the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will start freezing funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation? What is this telling me, Mr. Chairman? That's my final question.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the official on my left, Ji, can provide the answer, it would be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The reduction of the CMHC's funding under the Social Housing Agreement is set on a schedule and it's used for annual O&M and M&I funding. The current schedule will decline to zero by March 31, 2037, and the GN basically has covered the funding reduction to ensure the existing stock of housing continues to be maintained properly. Thanks.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I ask my question, I want to make a couple of comments about previous members' questions. When Mr. Lightstone was asking about Inuit employment and the Nunavut Housing Corporation referred to their LHOs saying, "If we count the LHOs, our Inuit employment would be way up," but you can never do that because LHOs are not government employees, just to clarify that.

When Mr. Main was talking about contracts and the percentage of Inuit content, I know 14 or 15 years ago in my community that the Inuit content for labours was upwards of 50 percent, but since the housing corporation changed over to ship, supply, and erect buildings all included in one contract, local contractors could no longer bid on these contracts because they couldn't afford to. Our local contractors usually paid their employees more than outside contractors.

Moving on to my question, as I stated in my opening comments, your business plan indicated that the department will "Implement an improved organizational structure in the Qikiqtaaluk District" over the next three fiscal years. What specific problems is this reorganization intended to address? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt, for your question. The Baffin

district issues are geographical whereas the Nunavut Housing Corporation serves 13 communities, for the Kivalliq it's seven and for the Kitikmeot it's five, and we are stressed to the gunnells in terms of serving the Baffin region with our limited staff. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering that the Baffin district is so large and you want to do something about it, is it your intent to divide the Qikiqtaaluk district into two separate areas or is your intent to take some of the communities and associate them with another district like the Kivalliq or Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're currently looking at the models of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions and so we're going to look at the Baffin district that way. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll ask the same question. Is it the intent to reduce the number of communities...? I'm saying that wrong I guess, but right now we have 13 communities in the Baffin district. Is it your intent to divide them up into two different districts like a south and north or is your intent to take communities and move them into the Kivalliq so that you will have an equal number of housing associations in each district? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's certainly one of the options that we're looking at. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You say you have different options. When will these options be finalized and get to the point where us as regular MLAs could review what options you're looking at when dividing the districts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Chairman, if my deputy head could answer that question for the floor. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Chair, the current districts that we have, in the three years that I have been with the housing corporation, I have noticed some efficiency is more prevalent in some districts as opposed to others. We're currently looking at seeing what we can do to try to replicate those or to use what has been a success and to try to put that into the Baffin district based on the fact that there are 13 communities from north to south, Sanikiluaq to the High Arctic to Grise Fiord, 13 communities, and whether proximity would be an issue, whether the number of staff is something that we can work towards improving as well.

At the end of the day what we're hoping

to do is to ensure that the LHOs are being given the appropriate supports and to ensure that we're responsive when it comes to issues within the local housing organizations, and to have sort of an equal amount of responsiveness as well as support provided by the other districts within the Baffin.

The option suggested as to whether we divide up the district office in Cape Dorset into two districts is one option or another is to increase the number of staff within that one district. That's in the preliminary stages as well, but we are trying to look at how we can improve the service that we provide to the LHOs and those are one or two options. As for a time frame, I can't give a time frame at the moment, but it is something that we are looking at overall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave that one at that for now. Also in my opening comments I talked about your business plan indicating your efforts to strengthen your "relationship with Local Housing Organizations by implementing an updated and user friendly Management Agreement." What are the most significant differences between the current agreement and the revised agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: The MOU that we're negotiating right now is for clarity and different definition of roles that we roll out to the local housing organizations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will you be tabling a copy of the housing corporation's new Master Management Agreement with local housing organizations in the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still in negotiations with the local housing organizations. We haven't set a date as to when we will be tabling the agreement, but when the time comes, we will notify our colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On to a different subject, local housing associations are required under the *Societies Act* to submit annual financial statements and other items to the registrar of societies. As of today, which of Nunavut's housing associations are currently not in good standings with the registrar? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Hang on, Mr. Chairman, we're getting that information.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official to my left has the information as to which LHOs are not in good standing. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for

the question. We assure and track all the LHOs based on several years because we give them two or three years, if I remember correctly, and up to now the majority of the LHOs are in good standing. Thanks for now. We will get an update after every two or three years to track that so that we would give enough time for the LHOs to put all the registries and the information in as well. Thanks.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years a number of associations have been moving away from being an association to becoming an authority under the management of the housing corporation. As of today, how many communities are still under the association status? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Up to now there are 19 LHOs, to answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues from Arviat and Whale Cove mentioned about the mining sector part. In your business plan it says the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Government of Nunavut have been in talks with Agnico Eagle Mines. Are those the only mining sectors that you have been consulting with or have you consulted with other mining industries like Baffinland? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's going to take everybody to come to the table in terms of addressing our acute housing shortages throughout Nunavut, and we intend to reach out to Baffinland iron ore mines shortly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to the next page in your business plan, page 9, the first bullet of the last sentence says, "...consultation with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Kanatami is planned for early 2019." I hope that's a typo. Is that trying to say "Katimajingit" rather than "Kanatami"? Could you clarify on that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's referring to ITK, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I had thought there was an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit for Canada. Now, when I reference the term *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, we have been informed that the housing corporation wants to use that more. With your current practice of building multiplexes, does your plan incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the actual design of the housing units? Where are you at

with this plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: *Itsivautaaq*, I understand we're going to be reaching out to the elders' committee in terms of the question he is asking about. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What is the time frame that you will be consulting with the elders? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We consult with them on a continuous basis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed your reference to elders was that they would be included.

Let me move to an entirely different matter. Now, within your reports it also mentions waiting lists for public housing applicants. It was also outlined there on March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2018. I want to use this example. Now, it states that the waiting list in Iqaluit increased by 116.9 percent and if we look at the figures, it went from 166 to 360 people on this waiting list.

Perhaps it is clear when you consult the

LHOs about their waiting lists, but how truthful are these figures based on the waiting list if only applicants are listed? How truthful or accurate are they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his question, Iqaluit had a big spike on the waiting list. The Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak had put an emphasis on this area, so the Iqaluit numbers did grow suddenly. There were more people that applied for housing. (interpretation ends) That's the reason why there was a big hike, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the reason why I asked that question is in looking at the Hall Beach figures for 2016, there were 67 people on the waiting list, but when you get to March 31, the numbers dropped to 43 people, so the numbers decreased. This was the reason for my questioning the accuracy of the waiting lists. Obviously you must meet with the LHO managers on occasion, and I now want to understand if the veracity of the community waiting lists is suspect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figures are sent to us from the LHOs and further, they are sent to the (interpretation ends) district offices (interpretation) as they work with their regional offices. Now I would encourage residents who perhaps haven't applied

for housing in the communities to apply, as we aren't aware of individuals who stop applying as they are not on these lists. Perhaps more people are not applying that impact these waiting list figures that we update as non-applicants are not included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, when figures are publicly shown, they have to be completely accurate when they enter this House.

Now, I want to ask about this other matter. With these figures we have here, in looking at the numbers, I wonder if the housing corporation has more current numbers to the residents placed on the waiting lists. In looking at the numbers in your report, will you have these figures completed in time for tabling the report by the fall session? That is also my last question on this matter, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but we don't quite understand the question. Mr. Chairman, can he please rephrase his question so we can try to answer it properly? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerk, please clarify.

Mr. Kaernerk: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I need to change my channel too here. Will you commit to tabling a copy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's updated Public Housing Allocation System Backgrounder in the Legislative Assembly during our fall sitting?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can certainly share the information the member is requesting this fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Last name on my list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Save the best for last.

>>*Laughter*

Okay. During my general comments I gave some light as to the possible questions I might be asking.

I understand that some of my colleagues were talking about Inuit employment and whatnot and one of my colleagues indicated that you as an organization cannot override the local housing organizations that are registered societies. I agree there, but on the other hand, I must state that if they're a local housing authority, they're under the management of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's minister and I guess from what I made to be aware of is your corporate office, as the minister does appoint the directors that are under a local housing authority. The minister appoints the directors for those particular communities that have an authority at the moment and are not a registered society.

My first question there is: seeing that these communities that have authority are working currently under authority

status, would you entertain or consider manager interns for Inuit employment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy would like to respond to his question. If you will allow him to respond, Mr. Chairman, I would be grateful.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Chairman, whether it is authorities or associations, we still consider them entities that are independent from the public service. When they are authorities, the district manager is usually the person appointed to act as a board under that authority. The district manager is exercising the authorities of a board when it comes to local housing organizations that aren't an association.

In the overall sense, the previous member asked about Inuit employment within local housing organizations and within the corporation itself, there is some back and forth between housing organizations and the housing corporation. I'll use the example of Arviat where, once in a while, we do hire individuals who are working at LHOs and putting them into districts to give them that experience and exposure to the corporate level of housing.

In that sense, sometimes the LHOs don't appreciate us sort of taking their employees away, but it's really a good place for us to look at times when it comes to seeing whether or not we can have individuals within the communities

actually work for the housing corporation. We're on a constant monitoring aspect of where the LHOs can actually improve when it comes to local employment and how we can provide the support and the training if they need it. That aspect of the HR that we provide for the housing organizations is a big part of it.

That's sort of the roundabout response to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In listening to the responses that were given to my colleagues, currently there are 19 local housing organizations that are registered as a society. Elections are overseen by their elections and whatnot, but when I look at seven communities that are currently under authority, or six...okay. When you look at six, for the district office, you're looking at three new PYs. I think as a pilot project and that has always been the... . For me, during my campaign anyway, they would like to see more Inuit employment.

When we look at those six communities that have authority, because they're still under the Nunavut Housing Corporation under their management and whatnot, I think that is one avenue that you guys should look at in taking consideration for interns, training Inuit interns, and then when they become fully qualified, the board can decide in partnership with the Nunavut Housing Corporation if they want to have that intern become a manager, but then you have built skills with an individual. Would the Nunavut Housing Corporation take that into consideration for the future years?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the whole exercise of appearing before the members is to get ideas from the floor as to how we can improve the overall employment of the beneficiaries throughout Nunavut. Yes, we can certainly look at the member's suggestion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I'll move on. These next two questions I have are more on the lines of financial areas. Under your business plan, NHC-6, Corporate Operations, from this fiscal year to the following fiscal year, if my math is correct, I see a calculation of a \$446,000 increase in corporate operations. Can I be privy to that information as to the \$446,000 increase under Corporate Operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Bear with us just a minute, please. Thank you.

(interpretation) We're looking for it right now. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we can come back to it, Mr. Chairman, as we can't find it right now. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can get a briefing from the minister at a later date regarding that increase.

I'll move on to page NHC-7, Priorities (2018-19). I'm referring to the second bullet. "The Nunavut Housing Corporation coordinated with Departments of Health and Family Services to maintain Nunavut Housing Corporation-owned Elders' centres, and continued to offer Local Housing Organizations the option of establishing newly built public housing units for elder residents."

My question there is, for my community, the last population count on elders was 99. Currently, according to my knowledge, you also have 12 units under mould remediation which relate to health. Will those be taken into consideration in allocation for public housing for the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, through the LHOs, the LHOs make that determination and they allocate who gets housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to private homeowners, as some of my colleagues brought forward, you have a number of renovation and home repair programs

which I believe go from one fiscal year to the end of the fiscal year and so many are approved. Some of my constituents who are private homeowners with health concerns have brought to my attention that when they put in their repair program, they were approved but the actual repair program or construction hasn't occurred. Does the money lapse to the following year and wait 'til the actual repair is constructed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the small budget that we have for the homeowners repair program is just \$4.6 million. We are finding that it's not sufficient to meet the needs out there, but we are really trying our best to accommodate the homeowners. It's a really important aspect of our operations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. As an MLA for Baker Lake, I've had constituents come and talk to me who are private homeowners. They put in their proposal, they have been approved, but it's all related to health. Some of them are pretty close to being wheelchair bound and whatnot and they have been waiting so many months. When you look at these programs, what I want to find out is, for individuals who have mobility programs and when you guys award them the grants and whatnot and if they have identified a private sector, is there any way in shape or form that the Nunavut Housing Corporation

can also indicate that they are given top priority due to the fact that it's a health-related matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my deputy can respond to that question, I'll appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the application and based on the need for the actual mobility challenge aspect of the importance of the type of renovation needed through the disability program, we try to make those a priority and try to address them as quickly as we can. The member is aware as well, even though we have \$4.6 million identified within that fiscal year, we are currently looking to avoid any denial of applications because the money has been tapped out. We're looking at over-applying some applications based on the fact that the need is there.

Over the years there has been an increase in actual spending of these dollars based on the fact that we moved the application process from the districts to a central Arviat office, our headquarters office in Arviat, which has greatly improved the actual turnaround time for these applications. We are looking at making sure that those people who have the highest priority are actually looked at and being addressed as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that in some cases the process is really sped up for some people who have put in their applications, but there are some constituents in my community who have been approved, but the work has not been done yet and they have tried to indicate that to a district housing authority or Nunavut district office, housing corporation.

When they are not getting anything done, what next steps are in place that I could pass on to my constituents if they feel that the money has been approved but the work hasn't happened yet, they have tried to state their plea to the Nunavut Housing Corporation district office, yet nothing has happened and we are now approaching the fiscal year-end? What options do they have next? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are a number of factors that could be involved, like maybe missing the sealift order or the local contractor is very busy in other projects. Those are the factors that sometimes come into play in terms of these homeownership programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're done with that page. Next page is Debt Repayment. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I just have a couple of questions. We know this debt repayment influences a lot in allocations going to communities for public housing to be

constructed. Currently overall when we look at Nunavut as a territory, what amount do we stand at for outstanding arrears? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of housing and public housing stock or delivery to our communities, we don't look at the arrears of the people of whom they are serving, but according to the needs or according to the methodology that the corporation has in terms of this community will get five houses, etcetera. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: That page has to do with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When we look at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and regarding that, where do we stand in the next few years coming? Are we starting to go on a downhill trend or are we on an uphill trend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently it's a downhill trend, but we are negotiating with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in terms of offsetting the payment, but by 2037 I understand that the money we get from the CMHC for our mortgage will be down to zero and unless they come to the table, we will be really in dire need of funding for our housing stock. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to welcome the minister and his officials.

I had some questions to ask earlier, but some of them were already asked. Now, I'll turn to this matter I asked about earlier on strategic planning. We are all faced with housing shortages in Nunavut as all communities suffer housing crisis or shortages, which made me think of some of the reasons.

Today my colleague representing Gjoa Haven spoke about the overall arrears under the housing corporation being \$30 million or thereabouts. This amount, since the rental policies came into effect, is due to some tenants not paying any rent while others are able to submit their monthly rents on time, and every tenant is being charged a different rent as well. Since this debt will remain on the books, this amount owed could alleviate our housing shortage to some degree if it wasn't owed, which is obvious.

What has the department contemplated as being the best solution to lowering the overall rental arrears or what amounts can be paid off? I hope I was clearly understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have positions under the LHOs called (interpretation ends) tenant relations officers (interpretation) who are working with the tenants to try to deal with payment plans where they have rental

arrears. I also urge all tenants listening in to work with their tenant relations officers in their LHO offices. As we read earlier in the chairperson's opening comments, the collection rate for rental arrears was at 83 percent as of last year. This was good to hear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) The question you asked is on page O-IV-5. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought we were already on that page and I apologize for being lost earlier. When we reach the right page, I will ask my question later. I don't have another question after this last one. Thank you.

Chairman: We're done with that page, Debt Repayment. Next page, District Offices. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions have already been asked by my colleague. I have no more questions. All the other questions were related to capital, so I'll ask them when we're dealing with capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: District Offices. That is the only name I have. Next page, Affordable Housing Program. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an earlier question where I kind of alluded to it, but what I wanted to comprehend was the rental policies that were enacted in Nunavut with the creation of the LHOs and rental units way before even the creation of the territory of Nunavut.

Did the arrears begin to accumulate at the creation of the territorial government or did this stem from the approval of the rents by public housing tenants? Is this from that time or from when? I don't know as I am just thinking off the top of my head, but the arrears will not be forgiven if it is owed.

When Nunavut was created, did our rental arrears grow from there or did the rental arrears owed previously under the GNWT get transferred? What about the people who owed arrears to the GNWT? Many of them are deceased, but their debts are still on the books. What will they do with this debt owed by deceased people? I wanted to find that out, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize I couldn't understand our colleague from Netsilik earlier today when he had asked questions. For those who have passed on still with debts, they do a write-off on our books. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for clarifying that for me. If a debt cannot be written off, it will only cause the overall amount to quickly escalate, obviously, as it is still written on paper. Now that parts will be written off, this will alleviate our challenges, although it won't fix the problem.

I want to ask this question to the minister about this issue where units are undergoing mould remediation. Even with this remedial work, they are still

charged rent. Does this payment of the rent get put towards cost of this work? What is the housing corporation's plan? I hope I came across, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question he asked applies more to the LHO bodies. One moment, please.

Now I get it. The LHO adjusts the rent based on the condition rating or if the unit has been damaged. They usually set the rent based on many factors. I hope I was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we can know a little more at later date either my letter or phone, but I have another question in regard to the rent of the units. As far as rent arrears, the housing associations in the community, what does the department think or what have they said about assisting LHOs with long-standing arrears to assist tenants in paying off their debts? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier, the tenants who owe arrears are required to work on a repayment plan or if any further payments can be collected by the LHO. We want them to work with the LHOs to lower their debts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This isn't a real question as it is more of a comment. We are always struggling with funding to meet our needs as Nunavut is still a young territory at barely twenty years old. We ask questions of this government to find funding to help the people of Nunavut. We will have easier discussions while others will be contentious. We have to try to agree on issues so we can move forward as the territory of Nunavut. I just wanted to say that and I thank the minister for answering my questions. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Next name, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Last year when we were going through this in the O&M budget with the minister of the day, I had an exchange with the minister regarding remote monitoring for public housing units because there are about, I think, 5,000 public housing units, monitoring them remotely for things like floods in the crawlspace, temperature and moisture issues. Has there been any progress on experimenting or trying to look at a system for remote monitoring? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To that question, we are providing the LHOs iPads in terms of monitoring the condition ratings or giving reports on the condition ratings to the corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I understand that's the condition rating side of things, but I was more talking about remote sensing. My understanding is that for communities on trucked water, there are a lot of issues around flooding, especially if the water tank is in an area where it's underneath the house. It causes mould. It causes water damage. There are issues with other things, such as moisture, whether the HRVs are being used, whether tenants have their heat turned up to 30 and they have the windows wide open. I'm referring specifically to public housing. Has there been any progress in terms of looking at remote sensing systems which would allow the LHOs to monitor their units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask my deputy head to respond to that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are constantly trying to look at how we can improve the monitoring aspect of not only the condition rating but the overall usage, but that's a very difficult aspect of trying to look at existing technologies and whether or not that can be done remotely. I sometimes ask the question.

You have these \$30,000 to \$40,000 vehicles where you can just plug in and

it shows you the condition of the engine, what mileage the fuel is, the rate of speed, the maximum rate of speed, and past usage of that vehicle. Here we have \$500,000 homes that don't have that capability, but for us it's about the practicality of the technology, the remoteness aspect of things, whether or not there are standards across each of the communities with respect to how we can accurately monitor those. It's something that we can definitely keep looking at and see what we can do to improve the overall monitoring and to try to address those types of situations.

The best thing we got right now that we're currently working toward is increasing our tenant engagement campaign and to try to speak to our tenants about responsible usage and ensuring that they don't turn up their thermostats too high and, if they are, is it because it's too drafty, and we can try to look towards addressing those or just being energy wise overall, but it's a matter of working with the LHOs and how we can work towards improving all that on top of the tenant campaign initiative that we're working on right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of that tenant engagement campaign, the minister mentioned this in the House the other day, I believe it was a campaign with sweatshirts as a prize. I don't know why the sweatshirts stick in my mind, but I think that's what it was, although you wouldn't be allowed to wear it in the House unless you can wear it with a tie.

In terms of that tenant engagement campaign, what are the main pieces to that? It sounds like there's some meat on the bones of that right now.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't encourage the member to wear that t-shirt here too, but to further elaborate on that question I ask the deputy head to respond to that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tenant campaign is sort of an overall longer term initiative that we have been working on to assist the LHOs in ensuring that the tenants know and understand their responsibilities as the lessees or the partners in having them understand what's involved with respect to being a responsible tenant.

As part of that, we have our current calendar, which I don't know if you have seen it or not, there's a certain theme for each and every month. We're going out on social media as well to try to improve participation of the tenants and to have them understand that it's not only the LHOs that are responsible for that unit, but it's you as a tenant as well, and to see what we can do to try to improve the type of usage and what we can do to try to improve the situation.

Prior to entering into a lease agreement with the local housing organization, we hope to provide information to the tenant prior to handing over the key that they sit through, let's say, a 20-minute video

to sort of know and understand what's involved in being a good tenant and doing it that way because there are certain responsibilities that the tenant should be aware of: keeping up with the cleanliness, making sure that the LHOs are informed if there are any maintenance issues, keeping up with rent and, if you can't keep up with the rent, then to ensure that the LHOs are informed as well, so long as there is that open line of communication. There is a lot of room for improvement in that aspect in the management of our units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to public housing tenants who are receiving support from Family Services or from different sources, has there been progress made in terms of addressing the issue where some of the tenants weren't taking the rent cheque or whatever it was and walking it over to the housing association? I recall there was some work being done to streamline that between Housing and the government department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that we deal directly with the assessment now and provide the money to... Family Services gives us the money. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's good to hear and long overdue, I believe.

In terms of the public housing and the utility costs for 5,000 units, any jump in electricity rates or fuel or anything is going to affect the housing corporation in a big way, right? Does the housing corporation understand better now what the impacts of the carbon tax are going to be? We're looking at impacts on this very large public housing stock. In terms of this next upcoming fiscal year, do we understand what the impact will be? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have been briefed on some of the programs that we have and one of the shocking things that I was briefed on is that I understand the water bill to our LHOs is bigger than the O&M funding that we provide for them. Yes, we have a lot of work to do in terms of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the water bill, that's the same issue that I brought up with CGS where the housing corporation is indirectly funding hamlets' water services, right? That's the long-standing issue.

In terms of the carbon tax specifically and the amount of fuel that our public housing units are burning, the cost of power, does the housing corporation understand what the impacts are going to be, impacts on your operations of the public housing stock? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think that carbon tax is very detrimental in terms of our funding and the money that we roll out, but we will find the real impacts when it rolls out. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the other issue that the minister brought up, the water and sewage service situation, I mentioned this with CGS and it's a very good time because my understanding is CGS is looking at the funding formulas for hamlets right now in a big way, so they have opened up the door, so to speak. Is the housing corporation sitting down, is the housing corporation participating in the work which is looking at how hamlets are funded? If we're going to solve this flow of money... . Like the minister said, it's a very high rate that they pay for their water to public housing units. This seems to be a very opportune time to try to solve that or try to make it better. Is Housing active with CGS in terms of looking at this and, if so, have there been any timelines or any goals identified? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand my deputy had some meetings with the deputy minister for CGS, or Community and Government Services. As for timelines on how to address that issue, it's still not

settled. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll just encourage the minister to keep working on this. It's Action 53 in your blueprint and it says here, "short term." I think the time is right to try to tackle this. I'll just leave that as a comment.

When it comes to tenant damages, when a public housing tenant, let's say, breaks a window or a door breaks and the tenant is held responsible, I understand they pay a deductible or (interpretation) they get a bill. (interpretation ends) Are those damage costs standardized across all communities or is it up to the LHO to set, "Here's how much you pay for a door, here's how much you pay for a window," etcetera? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the assessment of the LHO and how much damage was done to, let's say, the door or window or whatever the case may be. Those are all assessed when they are repaired and the bill is transferred down to the tenant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm trying to ask is: do all communities have to pay the same cost for certain damage? If I'm living in Arviat or somewhere else, if I broke a window, would someone in Hall Beach

have to pay the same amount of money for the same damage (interpretation ends) in that example? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that the cost of repairing something is different in each community like in the south, but some communities are farther than others like Arviat. For example, Arviat might be a little cheaper, just imagining it, as opposed to Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are those rates set by each LHO or is it the housing corporation that sets them in terms of tenant damages? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the LHO's responsibility to assess the damage and come up with the cost of repairing whatever the damage might be. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I understand it. Accumulating debt is the thing. It should be reviewed for the communities. (interpretation ends) Maybe a comparison of the different communities and best practices within the LHOs, I don't know if that would be of any use, but I know that some are

better at keeping up on arrears than others.

When it comes to the public housing unit waiting list, the waiting lists are done by bedroom; on the type of unit they're on the waiting list for. My understanding is there's not a separate waiting list for elders' units or if there is, it's not being communicated very well to the LHOs or to people looking for elders' units.

(interpretation) Can I get clarification on that, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) We encourage our LHOs or local housing associations or authorities to reach out to the elders in terms of the needs of what the member is asking about. *Qujannamiik*. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll use Arviat for an example. Are there a specific number of elders who are waiting for elders' units? Is that list maintained? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Not within the corporation, but we encourage the LHOs to monitor that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I

guess I'll just end it with a comment. I think it might be valuable to have LHOs all establish a specific waiting list for elders. It's something that is in need and I believe the housing corporation owns designs for elders' units, but my understanding is they're not built on a very regular basis. If we could see more elders' units being built across Nunavut, I think it would be beneficial for them. Like the minister said, the LHOs have the decision-making ability, but I think it needs to be communicated better to them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairman: That was just a comment. The last name on this page, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get right into the questions. The rent scale was adopted from the NWT. Do we anticipate a Nunavut-made rent scale for public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one and it was completed in 2016. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 2015. (interpretation ends) Correction, 2015.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that new rent scale that is in place now and up and running, have we seen the deficit on the rise or are we slowly sloping to reducing the deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It goes up and down on a year-to-year basis, but we encourage our TROs to reach out to the tenants to address their arrears, whatever the case may be. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to affordable housing, with these homeownership programs, sometimes the district offices staff cannot travel. Is there another avenue in implement and promoting homeownership programs? For example, you might have a designated housing authority employee as “other duties related.” Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a good point and certainly we can look at what the member suggested. I think that would be a great avenue too in terms of helping homeowners apply for programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be music to the Chairman’s ears. I have only two more questions.

>> *Laughter*

My second-last question is, when we look at the NHC, I honestly believe that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is on a positive trend in speaking with the

industry. I have seen in some communities where industry is already operating or slab units, where they’re surfacing more in those communities. Is that the trend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation and industry are in discussions with regarding housing issues for neighbouring communities with industry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand we just had our first meeting and it’s going to go on an annual trend from henceforth. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is on page NHC-18 in your business plan, the very last bullet. I’m pretty confident that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has all that information where public housing units across the territory have reached the end of their life expectancy. I’m pretty sure that is in documentation. Will that be provided to the members at a later date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we rely heavily on the federal government in replacing our aging housing stock. With limited funding, we try to extend the life of units as much as possible. We will maintain our stock. It’s challenging to deal with at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. A name just popped up. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The environmental scan on NHC-3 of the business plans states that the NHC holds mortgages for 146 homeowners. I was curious what these mortgages were for. Was it for a prior rent-to-own program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought the member was going to report progress.

>>*Laughter*

I understand it was from the NWT days. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those mortgages are prior to the formation of Nunavut, as the minister just indicated, but I was just curious: how did those mortgages come about? Were they homeownership programs encouraging individuals to get out of public housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Chairman, to the details, I'm asking my deputy head to respond to the member's question, if you will allow him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those mortgages initially were, from my understanding of how they came about, the GNWT of the day wanted to encourage homeownership and were looking at stock that they felt that they could surplus. In that sense it was a good initiative, but because it was not necessarily based on the income level of the individual, they had an interest rate that was quite high, way above the Canadian mortgage rate or the Bank of Canada rate.

Sadly in a lot of those cases they are still paying a mortgage that should have been probably paid way back in the earlier days considering the time that has past. In some cases there may be some homeowners with those mortgages that may have paid twice over. We're trying to address some of that. In the opposite end of the extreme, we have some that are still in arrears.

There has been a lot of variation with respect to the actual success of that program. We have been working to try to work with them and address it and see what we can do to improve the situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the most recent annual report there were a number of public housing tenants that had an annual income of over a hundred thousand. I believe the number was 277 tenants with an income over a hundred thousand. Is the corporation intending on gearing homeownership programs towards these individuals to encourage them to get out of public housing and move towards homeownership? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation, as part of its review of the homeownership program, will include what the member suggested and community-by-community feasibility assessment of the likelihood of a successful homeownership program.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year I brought up the topic of homeowners that, unfortunately due to whatever circumstances, can no longer afford to maintain their home. I was curious. I believe last year the minister had stated that the NHC will, under those circumstances, assume ownership of those homes. My first question is: what is the exact process for the NHC to assume ownership of those properties and how often does it occur? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When homeowners can no longer maintain their homes, the housing corporation can take over the unit. If I can have my deputy explain more about the details, Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In situations like that where individuals are no longer to cover the O&M aspect of owning their home, if there's no mortgage, we first encourage them to look at the local market as to whether or not there are potential buyers and to try to seek those out because the one thing we don't want to do is have the homeowner give up the house for sort of the under market value because that's what we offer at the NHC.

If they have exhausted all possible avenues locally, then what we do is first we do a condition rating as to whether or not the house is viable, if it costs us to actually make improvements to improve the liveability of it. We take that into consideration and then we make an offer to the owner way below market value that's based on what it would actually cost, but first we encourage them to try to sell it privately first within the local community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the annual report it states that the average maintenance of public housing units, I believe, was \$27,000. Just recently last fall the Nunavut Housing Corporation released, I think, an RFP to improve and renovate public housing stock to move towards more energy-efficient upgrades. First I would like to ask the minister for an update on the progress of that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Government of Nunavut have been successful in its

application to the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The project will accelerate the replacements and retrofits targeted at energy-efficiency improvements in approximately 1,000 of our units with \$8 million of funding over a four-year period. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, when I was reading that RFP, it included items such as replacing the windows and doors and upgrading appliances to meet energy-efficiency standards but it also included a section there for replacing the hot water tanks. The wording, from what I understand, was replacing the hot water tanks with other conventional hot water tanks. I would just like to seek clarification if that program will be replacing the hot water tanks with conventional hot water tanks or if it would be replacing it with energy-efficient, on-demand systems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Energy efficiency, yes, we're looking at that but not necessarily as for doors and windows. I'm a homeowner, Mr. Chairman. I might just add that I can give a bit of advice on how to keep your door from freezing up. I cut a strip of caribou skin about two inches wide and use it around the door, and that's 100 percent windproof and there's no ice up no matter what the temperature. The temperature may be minus 60, but there's no...it's 100 percent windproof application. That's

my patented model. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just rephrase my question. I would like to enquire if that Low Carbon Economy Fund, which is going to renovate 1,000 units, including replacing the hot water tanks, I would like to enquire if the hot water tanks would be replaced with conventional hot water tanks or if they would be replaced with energy-efficient, on-demand systems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: To that hot water question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask my deputy minister to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been finding for the upgrades into conventional hot water tanks is more energy efficient as compared to the on-demand based on the electricity usage as well, taking that into account as well as the fuel consumption. We have been finding that the upgrades into conventional water tanks are the way to go when it comes to energy efficiency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I would agree with that statement because I have an on-demand energy heating system that is not electric; it runs off the home heating fuel and is proving to heat my water

much more efficiently than my conventional hot water tank. I would just like to ask for some more details on how it was determined that conventional hot water tanks were more efficient than the energy-efficient systems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We can come back to the member on his questions on a later date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're done with that page. This is the last information page. Affordable Housing Program (Staff Housing). Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm sure the housing corporation is dying to talk about when they're going to get out of staff housing in Iqaluit. It's in their blueprint for action. I'm just looking up the specific number here, but it's a major task. What's the current timeline on that blueprint item? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's in the stages. It could be as long as two years, but we're working on that particular file. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the review of the staff housing program and the changes that are going to come out of that review, are changes going to be announced soon within this calendar year? I know it's something there has been a lot of work put into analyzing it, looking at it, and seeing where the changes could be and how they would be implemented, but when can we expect news on this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the president to respond to that question; it's quite detailed on the processes of the staff housing program. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Change is not going to happen all at once, but we are looking at, in the first instance, sort of the overall administration, the eligibility aspect, the new iteration of the HR department, where responsibilities would best lie, and how to improve sort of the Inuit content aspect of GN staff that are in need of housing and whether staff housing would be the appropriate way to go about it. That's currently being reviewed and being discussed and how best to actually manage that, and then the aspect of whether there would be a decrease in the subsidy levels with respect to staff housing. That's one other area that we're currently looking at as well, how we try to incentivize

homeownership.

A lot of things are at play here, but there are some things that we're sort of trying to address sort of the low-hanging fruit aspect of this whole staff housing review. It is happening. It involves multiple departments as well as speaking with my fellow deputy heads and primarily the finance department as well as the HR and once April 1 comes, that department as well, and where the administrative aspect of it and how it can all be streamlined and improved.

It's ongoing, but you will see pretty soon some new changes to come, but it's left to the decision-makers at the cabinet level and as to the options that are at play here and to see whether or not some of this background work is accurate and whether it's the way to go. It is advancing as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. In terms of low-hanging fruit, we're talking about housing, so many the low-hanging two by four. I don't know. It's kind of late.

The president mentioned "pretty soon." Does that mean pretty soon within this decade, pretty soon within this calendar year, or pretty soon within this quarter? I realize you can't give us the details of what these changes will be, but I'm just looking for some sort of a firmer timeline. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As for a timeline when, I cannot share that information, but I can ensure the member that it's coming. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the business plan, you did allow questions earlier on homeownership and I realize that homeownership is budgeted under capital, but I hope you will allow me to ask one or two questions on homeownership. Thank you.

On page 27 of your business plan it mentions design changes to the homeownership program and there have been reviews done, I think they're in the second phase, the second stage...no, the second stage was completed and we're now onto the third stage which, according to page 26, was going to be completed in early 2019. In terms of the changes to the suite of programs under homeownership, what's the timeline for seeing those updated programs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Due to the recent written questions posed by the member for Manirajak, we're going to include that aspect part of the report into the homeownership program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand that. Can the minister provide clarification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this question to my deputy because we're reviewing the homeownership programs and we will be getting the information, but the member for Manirajak had quite a few questions about the homeownership programs. We would like to table both of the review results regarding homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I responded to the question.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been ongoing for the past year and a half or so on the review of the homeownership program, the suite of programs that we offer currently at the corporation. As the minister had suggested and based on the written questions, in tandem with that, we have also been looking at the feasibility assessment on a community-by-community basis as to the likely success of homeownership and how can we be more targeted. We felt that it would be prudent on our part to include that aspect within the program review.

If you could imagine, the timeline has sort of been evolving just based on that and how best we can capture the existing realities within our territory and to make it as comprehensive as possible and to avoid any redundancies, we hope that we can come out with that information as

well as base that review as to what next steps we can do at the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Did that homeownership review or will the homeownership work going forward include looking at getting a discount for homeowners at source from CGS? I mentioned this when we were discussing the PPD under CGS. They would basically be frontloading the discount or the fuel subsidy program, frontload it so that it's not delivered after they pay for the fuel oil, but just provide a subsidized rate for Nunavut homeowners specifically which could help with the cost of owning a home. (interpretation) Will that be included or was it included? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not part of the review, but certainly all options will be on the table and certainly we want to see a robust homeownership program throughout Nunavut and certainly we will look at all options on the table on how we can roll out the homeownership program for Nunavut residents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last question. The HAP program was very successful and there are quite a lot of people who are not employed but would like to become homeowners. In the NWT days

we had the HAP program where they built their own houses. We have been looking forward to seeing that type of a program reinstated. Some of those HAP houses are still occupied. That is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for that question. I was one of the people who built a HAP house before Nunavut was created. I have been told by my constituents and others that they thought it was one of the best programs. It will definitely be a part of the review of the homeownership programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. My last name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many questions, but I would like to have more information regarding the condominium program that we have here with the government. Specifically are all the units occupied now or do you have units that haven't been sold and what was the average price of a unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the units haven't been sold, (interpretation ends) but it's ongoing and the average price is about \$200,000 per unit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me: where are these units located? Are they in the Road to Nowhere area? Is that the only area or do you have some up in the Plateau? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's about half and half between the Road to Nowhere and the Plateau Subdivision. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$200,000 for a condo is pretty generous. I'm kind of surprised that all of them are not occupied. Why do you think there's some hesitation by staff to buy into this condo program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy is quite knowledgeable (interpretation ends) about the details of the program. Mr. Chairman, I would like you to give him permission to respond to my colleague's question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and to the member for the question. This was first rolled out March 1, 2018 and an information [session] was held February 28 of the same year here in Iqaluit and over 120 people attended.

A total of 55 applications were approved by the NHC for the first round, with all applicants having been approved by a financial institution for financing. A total of 35 have been confirmed to purchase, 16 buyers for the Plateau and 19 buyers for the Road to Nowhere. Approved applicants had an opportunity to view the units that they could become owners of May 16 and 17 of last year and select the unit that they would wish to purchase. Purchase and sales agreements were finalized in August with anticipated closing dates for units in Iqaluit's Plateau in the neighbourhood of 16 units confirmed in February 2019.

With respect to the finalization of actual occupancy, there have been some roadblocks in the sense that there have been a lot of city land issues and zoning and working with the city with respect to getting these units occupied. It has been since resolved and we do have people actually in those units. Over that time the 50 successful applicants have moved on and found maybe another unit to their liking in the private market. The total of 55 shrunk down to the 35.

We're hoping that we will continue to seek and encourage applicants and to try to be a little more targeted in the sense of "Why didn't you apply the first time? Here's your opportunity to do so." I think this is a really good opportunity for whoever it is that may be successful considering the price, especially in the market here in Iqaluit. We're hoping that we will get more of an uptake in that sense and working with my fellow deputy heads as to working with them on how we can actually get a little more targeted in that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I think there's, perhaps, more work needed in advertising some more because I was speaking with some of my constituents who are GN workers but didn't remember that you guys had this program, so it just made me think, "Oh, I wonder." Like you said, it was a year ago that you kind of rolled this out. It's just a comment on that.

Just in keeping with homeownership, in your business plan I was reading with interest about the fact of how the Nunavut Housing [Corporation] was working with the local housing organizations in regard to maintenance services for homeowners. I do know in the community, especially when you don't have a lot of private businesses to rely on to fix your furnace or to fix something else in the house, it can make it very difficult. In your business plan it talks about how the current capacity of many of the local housing organizations with respect to doing this is a bit stressed or there is some kind of hesitation.

In your business plan it says that "However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to work on local capacity building through *Blueprint for Action on Housing*." Can you give a better... ? I would like to know really: what do you mean by this? In what way will this happen? If you can further elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): I am waiting for the light. It is getting rather late at night, Mr. Chairman.

Obviously our homeowners sometimes deal with crisis on an urgent matter and they also call the local housing maintainers. We allow some repairs in certain emergencies, especially when no local contractor is available. The maintainers are allowed to work after working hours on basic repairs. We work with our employees as well as the Department of Family Services and Arctic College to see how local skilled labour can be made available for homeowners that may require emergency repairs on their private homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I merely want further clarity to ensure that our private homeowners receive the assistance they may need, even if it isn't an emergency repair or an urgent matter. How is this assistance provided? Does the homeowner approach the LHO and ask for help, or how is the LHO able to provide assistance to them?

Further, it states in the planning document in the English version that I want to quote, (interpretation ends) "...will continue to work on local capacity building through *Blueprint for Action...*" (interpretation) I would like more clarification on exactly what that means. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This assistance fund we provide to homeowners is limited to (interpretation ends) \$3,000 per unit for homeowners. (interpretation) It is capped at \$3,000.

Some communities have the available skilled labour to contract out this work while other communities have no available skilled labour, especially in the trades that service housing units. In these communities the maintainers can work after hours to repair the homeowners' issues, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, (interpretation ends) I do understand you have your programs that you can apply to, but I was just curious about the wording here. I think I'll just leave it because I don't know how else to say it. I think for now that is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was the last name on the list. Go to page M-3. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions for the staff housing program.

Last year someone brought up the issue of employees reaching retirement age while still in staff housing and it was brought up because essentially once employees in staff housing retire, they're asked to leave their residence because they are no longer employees.

I would like to ask: over the last year since the last time we discussed this in Committee of the Whole, what has the Nunavut Housing Corporation done to address the issue of employees retiring in staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For staff who retire, who are renting government housing, (interpretation ends) we encourage them to find a suitable home within the housing corporation's public housing stock. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to seek clarification on that. Did the minister state that employees retiring in staff housing will be provided public housing accommodation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, like everybody else, they have to apply through the process and be on the waiting list. The NHC encourages GN staff to plan for their retirement, which is including looking for alternative housing options. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to enquire if this is an ongoing issue and over the last year, for example, how many employees in staff housing have retired and what has become of them. Were they given X number of days to leave the property? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a detailed question and

I'll ask my deputy head to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of last year, we determined that there would be within the next five years or so 122 GN employees that are about to retire. What we have been trying to do is to see what we can do with the other departments and HR is one where, once they establish themselves as a department after the fiscal year, we have been working with the existing Finance HR on how best we can approach these individuals and to try to counsel them so that they are prepared for retirement and that includes, if they're in staff housing, what options they may have. It was also part of some of the targeted aspects of the condominium program locally as well.

We have been trying to encourage those that are near retirement to seriously look at their alternatives once they have to leave staff housing because, as per the *Residential Tenancy Act*, which we have to abide to, they are given the standard notice to vacate, which we know and understand is obviously a hardship for any person to go through to vacate a unit when they are no longer eligible to be in that unit.

We are looking at ways to try to work with not only HR and Finance but as well as the local housing authorities or local housing organizations to see what they can do in their aspect of the allocation and the wait-list and see where we can work together on ensuring that those people, especially at retirement age, are being looked after. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was the last person on the list. Go to page M-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$211,265,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser, do you have closing comments? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for your debate.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I would like to make mention of my staff who have worked really tirelessly over the few weeks in preparation for this. Certainly I would like to make mention of Mr. Mike Murphy, who just had a baby recently and he has worked tirelessly over the last few weeks in preparing our notes, and the staff here for fielding all the questions for me which I was not able to answer.

Going down the road, I look forward to working with all of you in terms of addressing our acute housing shortage issues, which covers from Sanikiluaq all the way up to Grise Fiord.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Enjoy your evening. Are you about to report progress?

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker (interpretation): 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 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

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 Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock tomorrow in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 5:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

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| 3. Members' Statements | 22. Orders of the Day |
| 4. Returns to Oral Questions | Thank you. |
| 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery | >> <i>Applause</i> |
| 6. Oral Questions | Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Tuesday, March 5, at 1:30 p.m. |
| 7. Written Questions | Sergeant-at-Arms. |
| 8. Returns to Written Questions | >> <i>House adjourned at 21:11</i> |
| 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 13 | |
| • Bill 15 | |
| • Bill 16 | |
| • Bill 17 | |
| • Bill 18 | |
| 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole | |
| 21. Third Reading of Bills | |

