

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

Corrections:

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 3, 2022

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joelie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Before we begin, can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Kaerner.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, Inuit. I say “hello” to you all. Welcome to those who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, and if my family is watching, I say “hello” to them. I love you.

(interpretation ends) Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

Minister’s Statement 102 – 6(2): Support for Eastern Canada

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow MLAs and Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about the support the Government of Nunavut has provided to communities in eastern Canada who have been impacted by Hurricane Fiona.

On Saturday, September 24, Hurricane Fiona hit Nova Scotia, eastern Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The storm left many without power and tremendous debris throughout communities. Storm surges swept away some homes. I was saddened to hear there were lives lost due to this historic, extreme weather event.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to those impacted by Hurricane Fiona in Atlantic Canada. Our thoughts are with those strong Canadians who are dealing with the devastating aftermath.

To assist in recovery, the Government of Nunavut is responding with a \$25,000 donation to the Canadian Red Cross to help cover those directly affected.

Inuit societal values teach us to provide for family as well as community. The Government of Nunavut is pleased to assist in supporting relief efforts in this region. Nunavummiut stand with our friends in the east coast. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Condolences to the families.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 103 – 6(2): Celebrating Success – Extended Support Agreements

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow MLAs as well as the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw attention to successes of the Department of Family Services' programs and services. In particular I would like to highlight the department's support services and extended support agreements that provide financial support to youth and young adults transitioning to independence and out of care.

Under this program, Family Services staff provide resources to youth and young adults who do not have the support of permanent families to help them succeed. Young adults supported under these agreements have gone on to excel in post-secondary studies, becoming competent tradespeople as well as accomplished athletes and much more.

Mr. Speaker, our youth are strong and resilient and when provided the right supports, great things can be accomplished.

I am very pleased to be able to share this with you today to recognize the contribution to the betterment of the lives of young Nunavummiut who are the future of this territory.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 104 – 6(2): Expansion of Renewable Energy Program

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform you that the Renewable Energy Support Program shows continued success in its second year. This

program aims to decrease greenhouse gas emissions in Nunavut and increase self-reliance, thus provides Nunavummiut with a tangible way to minimize their carbon footprints.

Mr. Speaker, my department is proud to say that this program is already well underway in the territory. Now in its second year, it continues to help Nunavummiut transition away from fossil fuels by providing grants for renewable energy projects, such as solar panels for homes and solar panels and wind turbines for cabins.

The Renewable Energy Homeowners Grant Program aims to reduce the pressure on the diesel-based electricity production and help increase the number of homeowners participating in the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Net Metering Program. Through the Net Metering Program, Nunavummiut can save money by generating power with renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, given the success of this program this fiscal year, we now have spent our allocated budget for our cabin grant program and are currently looking at increasing our budget to allow for more Nunavummiut to participate in this program. The success of this program tells us that more people are willing to invest in clean energy to reduce their energy consumption and their carbon footprint.

Mr. Speaker, this fiscal year alone, 66 cabin and 3 homeowners have been approved for funding. We also continue to accept applications and put them into a queue in anticipation of additional internal funding as it is evident the interest in renewable energy is high in the territory.

My department asked for increased support to expand and extend this program. With this program, the government is taking a significant step towards decreasing greenhouse gas emissions in Nunavut and increasing self-reliance. By further expanding the program, will help to reduce carbon emissions and use renewable energy sources more efficiently.
Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 105 – 6(2): Summer Nursing Students

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow MLAs.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, the Department of Health supports culturally appropriate health care and the development of programs to support Nunavut Inuit. Increasing the number of local and Inuit health care professionals to serve Nunavummiut is an important priority for our department.

Over the summer, for the first time, the Department of Health had 12 nursing students work throughout the territory in clinical settings. This new student nursing initiative saw placements with the Mental Health Division, Qikiqtani General Hospital, and health centres in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat.

In these supervised learning environments, nursing students had the opportunity to hone their clinical skills and prepare for patient care in a variety of settings. Obtaining in-territory clinical experience allows nursing students to enrich their knowledge of health care within a northern context.

I would like to thank all the students, *ma'na*, for their service through the summer, and all the permanent health staff who supported them as well. Through these valuable on-the-job learning opportunities, we hope to better prepare nursing graduates for future careers working in Nunavut health care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 106 – 6(2): Elders in Our Schools

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut and everyone here in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the valuable role that our elders have in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, over the past five years we have had the privilege of seeing over 340 elders known as Inuksiutilirijiit, contributing to our school communities. Elders or those granted with an Innait Inuksiutilirijiit Certificate recognizes them as a master teacher in their field of expertise. Our elders support our young people in schools across the territory and provide guidance on cultural activities, including Inuktut language transmission, traditional skill building, and teaching Inuit societal values.

Elders play an important role in our schools. A highlight of their work includes on-the-land trips where traditional knowledge is passed on, including ecological knowledge and survival skills. Other learning opportunities include beading, country food harvesting and preparation, iglu building, qajaq and qamutik-making, and sewing traditional clothes.

Mr. Speaker, our esteemed elders play an important role in transmitting *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to our youth who are the knowledge carriers. The Department of Education would like to encourage our elders who are interested in sharing their knowledge with our students come and work in our schools. If you would like more information on how to work in our schools, please inquire with your local school or district education authority.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to all our elders, in our schools, past and present. *Quanaqpiaqquhi* for your love and dedication. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Minister's Statement 107 – 6(2): Partnership with the Inuit Heritage Trust

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and the people of Igloolik as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to highlight some work my department is doing in partnership with the Inuit Heritage Trust. My department worked closely with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to secure *Nunavut Agreement* implementation funding. We will use this funding to implement the articles related to archaeology and collections.

Mr. Speaker, with this funding my department is working with the Inuit Heritage Trust to carry out heritage resources and collections training for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, this partnership reflects our government's commitment to Piliriqatigiinniq and its efforts to fulfill the objectives of the *Nunavut Agreement*. It is our priority to ensure Inuit are engaged in archaeology and heritage resource management work in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 108 – 6(2): Ethics Officer

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In 2013 this House made amendments to the *Public Service Act*, creating Part 6: Disclosure of Wrongdoing. This amendment added a mechanism for public servants to bring forward allegations of wrongdoing to an ethics officer without fear of reprisal.

On April 1, 2015, Jeffrey Schnoor was officially welcomed as Nunavut's first Ethics Officer and served Nunavut successfully for more than seven years.

As Members of this House know, the role of the Ethics Officer is to receive and investigate allegations of wrongdoing in our public service and to make recommendations for improvement.

Mr. Schnoor took on this key role to build trust and create an environment where employees feel comfortable sharing concerns or seeking advice. He previously noted that

“The vast majority of public servants work hard, work diligently, and work honestly.” I fully agree and believe that his work gave employees an added level of confidence.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our public service, I would like to thank Mr. Schnoor for his years of service and his contributions to our continuing progress. I ask all members of this House to join me in wishing Mr. Schnoor a happy retirement and all the best in his next chapter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 133 – 6(2): Power Outage in Sanirajak

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to voice my appreciation of an individual during the members’ statements. Nonetheless, unexpected occurrences sometimes land on our steps.

Mr. Speaker, just recently I was provided an update about Sanirajak, wherein the power plant started emitting smoke, although it was not on fire, but apparently the cooling apparatus was smoking, and the community is partially lit at this time. However, there is limited light and power, but they now have restored most of the power, but the electrical generators, number 3 and 4 are both running now, but the other generator is currently offline.

Now, I ask residents to keep in mind that another power outage may occur in the community of Sanirajak, through part of the day. It is obvious our residents will be required to cooperate again on this issue, as I spoke to it previously when I first arrived at Iqaluit. Prior to my departure, we had experienced a full power outage, for about a week and again, we are experiencing more power issues today, which is unfortunate. Please remain patient while this is being worked on.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is planning to go up there by charter. I know it maybe difficult, but I ask that everyone relax and to work together to overcome another power outage, and I ask that residents visit their elders and residents with mobility issues and to the youth, please provide more services for those less able.

We have no idea how long this repair work will take, as it is within an emergency basis category, and will continue to be dealt with until repairs are complete. I wish to thank the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation for keeping me informed, which I will continue to relay to my constituents.

I may leave the House occasionally, to deal with the current situation in Sanirajak, and I apologize my other constituents of Igloolik as I will be focusing on Sanirajak today, as I

had planned to provide a good news statement today. Nonetheless, this was an unexpected event, and sometimes it can change our plans, so we need to adapt. I am here, but my mind is at home, so I'm going to be feeling a little rushed due to my thoughts being on Sanirajak while my physical self is here. Please be patient, people of Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 134 – 6(2): Adult Learning Opportunities

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to call on our government, and specifically Nunavut Arctic College, to provide better learning opportunities for adults in our smaller communities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in my former life as an adult educator, I used to complete needs assessments for the community learning centre of Pond Inlet. These assessments reflected what the community requested for courses and programs to be delivered.

Mr. Speaker, we were fortunate that the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and the Environmental Technology Program were delivered locally at different times. However, more needs to be done.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Pond Inlet has the potential to be a thriving community. We have smart and capable residents. There are opportunities in tourism, the mining sector, the blue economy, and other areas. People need the basic management skills to get their ventures off the ground. They need basic management studies, bookkeeping, translation and interpreting courses, entrepreneurship programs, and other programs. For some reason and despite the results of the needs assessments, these courses are never offered in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit are very family oriented and like to stay close to home. If they leave their community, many risk losing their housing.

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Like I said, many risk losing their homes. There is also the added cost of travel and accommodation in a new place to be considered.

Mr. Speaker, this is 2022. Online learning has become an integral part of the learning experience. There is no good reason why Nunavut Arctic College cannot deliver relevant programs to the communities that request them.

We need to bring education to the people and help them acquire the skills that lead to success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member's Statement 135 – 6(2): Communicating Government Programs

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I rise today, is to speak to this issue, as we just heard the announcement of the minister during the ministers' statement by laying bare this subject I wanted to bring up.

Mr. Speaker, the minister touched upon this issue as we are conveyed announcements here in this House, and I want to also speak to the matter related to that announcement. I have given this matter a lot of thought, and it relates to the Government of Nunavut relationship with the communities, and the programs offered by CGS, as initiatives and programs are designed to provide more benefits locally.

The people of Nunavut have to be fully informed about the activities and community-based programs that are available to them to participate in and support. Effective communication and information sharing is very important to the people of Nunavut, to our communities, to all of us, and to our staff.

Mr. Speaker, I bring that up here in the Legislative Assembly as reminder to ensure that we keep our constituents informed, and that we encourage communication with and from the public. It could also lighten the load of the Nunavut government.

At the appropriate time, I will be directing questions to the Minister of Health with regard to what resources and benefits are being made available. For example, the Senior Fuel Subsidy program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Member's Statement 136 – 6(2): Kitikmeot Inuit Association 2022 Annual General Meeting

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the Kitikmeot region were invited to attend the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's 2022 Annual General Meeting. The annual general meeting took place over three days in October. I would take this time to thank the kind and welcoming community of Cambridge Bay for their warm hospitality.

As the Member for Kugluktuk, I had the opportunity to speak about the important work that is being done by the Legislative Assembly, and to bring to the attention, the issues that I have raised in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the former Kitikmeot Inuit Association president, Stanley Anablak, who recently retired, and I look forward to continuing a strong working relationship with his successor.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the opportunity and the honour of tabling the formal resolutions passed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association during the 2021 annual general meeting. I look forward to tabling this year's resolutions at a later date, during our future sitting in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Minister of Environment, Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 137 – 6(2): Retirement of Darlene Willie at Canadian North

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate Darlene Willie in Arctic Bay. She had been working for 20 years with Canadian North. Darlene is very friendly and welcoming in Arctic Bay, and was as well when she worked at the airport in Nanisivik. She is very welcoming and makes sure that everyone safely deplanes.

We don't know what she is going to be doing after her retirement, but I do know that she is going to be busy. Wherever she ends up moving to, we know that she will have a positive impact because of her hard working nature and her friendly and outgoing personality.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating and paying tribute to Darlene Willie, who worked for 20 years with Canadian North, as well as for providing service to the people of Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Member's Statement 138 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Wendel Pierre Quassa

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to mention that today is one of my children's birthdays. We never know what life has in store for us. We didn't plan on becoming adoptive parents to Wendell Pierre Quassa. Now he is 25 years old and we are very proud of him. Happy birthday. I hope he is watching. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 139 – 6(2): 2022 Inummarit Music Festival

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason that I rise today is to express my pride and appreciation to the people who organized the *inngirjuarniq*, the big music festival that was held in Arviat in 2022, (interpretation ends) the Innumarik Music Festival.

(interpretation) The festival took place at the beginning of October last month, and also included an elders' festival. This festival was placed on a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was so great to see it come back to Arviat. The recreation centre was full of people. People loved going to the big music festival at the community hall and listening to all the musicians singing in Inuktitut. All the songs were sung in Inuktitut and it was great to hear.

I would like to thank the committee Chairman, Paul Qattaut and the board members:

- Jackie Uttuq
- Jackie Koomak
- Ronnie Ilangajuk
- Peter Aulajuk Jr.
- Christine Ammaq
- Asheley Mamgark

Thank you very much. The above mentioned served as the committee, and they volunteered tirelessly, and were very busy all the time. They also organized and ran the singing festival. If they were not there as a committee, then that festival wouldn't have happened at all. I would also like to thank the funders, the Hamlet of Arviat, Agnico-Eagle Mines and the store, AC Arctic Connections, and Calm Air also. So I thank them all for providing for the very happy time in Arviat, and we look forward to the next one in 2023. Once again, thank you to everyone who was involved in organizing the festival. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 192 – 6(2): Ministerial Letters of Expectation

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak, No. 192 – 6(2), asked on October 31, 2022, ministerial letters of expectation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I provided on October 31, 2021 following a question from the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Adam Lightstone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission and the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board are not responsible for accepting cannabis retail applications. The office of the superintendent of cannabis licensing at the Department of Finance receives and reviews applications to determine if requirements are met to issue a retail licence. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past year, the youth climate change committee met here this fall and it was their first meeting. It's great that they're able to be present here today, and one of the committee members, Jennifer Kilabuk, is right here. She is one of the climate change committee members, and the manager of climate change response, Sarah Holzman. Let us all welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 6. Oral Questions. Just before we start the oral questions, our Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk will not be in the House today due to illness.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 220 – 6(2): Mobile Equipment Garage for Igloolik

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask my question to a specific minister, but I'll ask a different minister instead, to the Minister of

Community and Government Services regarding Igloolik's hamlet garage for water trucks and dump trucks, the building that they use for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, the budget for Community and Government Services for 2023-24 was approved at the Legislative Assembly. My first question to the minister is: what kind of planning has the Department of Community and Government Services done for the hamlet's garage? Can the minister explain what the plan is, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut. I also thank you for asking that question. The mechanical garage in Igloolik, starting in 2022-23, we have put it into the planning stage so that it can go into the planning stage. As the process was started at that time, we have begun working with the hamlet since March 12 this year, and we have met with them a number of times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister another question. It is now winter and it's going to be getting colder. The hamlets are renting something that costs a lot per month. Can the Department of Community and Government Services... ? If the hamlet wants to give you some of the budget back that they used to rent buildings, can the hamlet request to get a rebate? Can you explain how this has been looked at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Amittoq for that question. Mr. Speaker, we provide annual funding to the hamlets for their operations, and I believe this can be looked at if we can get a request from the hamlet about the rent. Whenever the rent becomes too high, the hamlet usually reviews them. We look at hamlet assets, lighting fixtures, and how much fuel that they are using, but sometimes they have to rent buildings and other things. We will have to review that, I think. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Community and Government Services handles all of the hamlets in Nunavut, and I think it would be appropriate if the minister can provide the House with information as to how much money has been provided to Igloolik.

The other question I have for the minister is: if an unexpected thing happens, what sort of planning has the Department of Community and Government Services done? For

example, we need to have good drinking water, good potable water, and they're always put into boil water advisory in Igloolik. Has there been any planning done if an emergency like that occurs? Right now we are experiencing an emergency in one of my communities. I would like to know what sort of contingency planning that the government has done for emergencies like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the mechanical garage in Igloolik, I know that in 2021, it needed to be renovated in the summertime so that they could keep using it. We are doing planning for it for capital purposes. We won't be bringing it out today or soon, but if an emergency occurs, all the hamlets get supported when they are making their emergency plans. They have to be implemented when an emergency occurs, like what is happening in Sanirajak and Igloolik right now. They do have emergency plans that they can use in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 221 – 6(2): Building Code Act

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good day to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of the *Building Code Act*.

As the minister is aware, many concerns have been raised by contractors and residents in the Kivalliq concerning this legislation. As the minister will recall, we recently exchanged correspondence on this issue.

In his reply to me, he indicated that his department is “currently investigating opportunities to increase efficiencies and service standards for builders and community members seeking to build, renovate and improve their homes. One consideration under review is the viability of a parallel permitting process that would allow builders to provide the Office of the Chief Building Official with alternative documentation to comply with regulatory requirements.”

Can the minister provide an update on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question on building permits. The Nunavut Building Code came into force back on September 1, 2018 and construction projects commencing after that date, they do require building

permits that get issued through the Office of the Chief Building Official prior to the start of construction.

We know that there has been quite a bit of activity going on in the region and his community, the member's community. My apologies, Mr. Speaker. My department has been engaging with contractors, and through our building officials around how to make efficiencies in this area. We do need to meet standards, but also of course, we do have a unique situation here in Nunavut. This is ongoing work that my department is committed to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's reply to my recent correspondence on this issue, he indicated that he is "not prepared initiate a review of the *Building Code Act*, or *Building Code Regulations*" at this time.

Can the minister clarify why he is unwilling to do so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question on this. We do have a lot of work that is before us at this time. When the time comes, we are periodically looking at our standards and making sure that our legislation and our regulations are in line across the board. This is ongoing work that will continue, but at this time we won't consider what the member asked.

It is something that perhaps down the road we'd be willing to look at more closely, so in response to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new strategy includes ambitious targets for the construction of new public housing units across Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify how his department's Office of the Chief Building Officer will be working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that regulatory requirements in respect to the construction of the new housing units are clear and reasonable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. My department works with not just the Nunavut Housing Corporation. There is very exciting news around that and we are anticipating additional work to support that and reaching those goals.

We do want to have sound and well-built homes, so the inspection piece is also a part of it, so the electrical, the foundation, and all the building components need to be working in good working order. My department is committed to providing those services to the sector. Additionally, I think that's something that if we do see gaps that we'll address going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 222 – 6(2): Building Code Act

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are also for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they also concern the *Building Code Act*.

Mr. Speaker, you know there's a problem when multiple MLAs are asking about the same topic; you know that it's generally a problem in a much larger area than in one community.

First, I would like to thank my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet for tabling a copy of the recent exchange on the correspondence of this matter, and I can assure the minister that I have also heard similar concerns from my constituents in Arviat. This is why I bring it up.

I was going to ask the minister what he has done. When we had the minister before us in May of this year, these concerns were brought up and I was going to ask for an update on what has the minister done to rectify the situation since then, but the minister said that he's not willing to look at the Act. I don't know why the minister is so rigid or not willing to look at the Act because obviously it's a problem.

I understand that we have to live to the code. I understand that. If you have a building like this, absolutely, you have to make sure it's safe for all of us in here and for anyone coming in. A shack? I don't know. A tent? Probably not. It could be an igloo. This is just determined by square footage. Steps on a house? Maybe not. A deck? All these require a building permit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister: why is he not willing to look at the Act and make it more reasonable and easier for the average Nunavummiut in the smaller communities that don't have access to engineers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a point of order. To your point of order, Mr. Joanasie.

Point of Order

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question was already asked by our colleague from Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. That is not a point of order. The member has a right to ask the questions, and the minister also has a right not to answer the question.

Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give my response then to the question that was asked earlier. We do have a lot on our plate. Our department is working on a lot of issues and we do have some other legislative work that we're doing, aside from the building codes and regulations. This is an area, I think, that we would be looking forward to reviewing more closely, but at this time we're not looking at changing anything within the Nunavut Building Code and regulations. This is an ongoing area that my department knows that there's work to be done, so we will be looking at it when the time comes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that common sense prevailed.

Mr. Speaker, it's simply ridiculous and unreasonable to require homeowners to obtain complex regulatory approval for basic projects like cabins, large tents, as I said earlier, stairs, decks, and as the minister acknowledged, his department already suffers from significant capacity problems. He says that there's a lot of other stuff on the plate in the critical areas, and in such critical areas as fire and electrical and safety inspectors. We don't need to burn the system that's already overburdened. As the minister said, they have a lot on their plate with complex approval processes for cabins, tents, and if you follow the letter of the law, maybe even igloos.

I recognize that a number of terms and definitions in our territorial legislation such as the word "building" itself are tied to terms and definitions in the *National Building Code of Canada*. This practice is referred to "incorporated by reference." The definition of a building in the Nunavut *Building Code Act* is defined by the Canadian *Building Code Act*.

Mr. Speaker, now that the Act has been in force for a number of years, I believe the department needs to take a second look at what needs to be changed in the Act. I will not ask the minister again because it's clear what the minister said, but I'll ask the minister: where are his priorities when there's so much on his plate? Is it to burden the small, little guy who wants to put an addition to his house or put steps, or is it to build safe, large multiplex or large units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, my department, through our building inspection officials, we do look at different structures of different types, and there are processes to look at those on a more administrative basis, but what I can say is that for building permits, we do try to have a good turnaround for when an application comes forward. Since March 2022, there have been 51 applications, as well as in addition to those, 128 inspections done within the Kivalliq itself. These applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis, so it doesn't matter what type of structure it is. That's what I can say for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister, I'm sure, is aware that in the small communities there is not ready access to engineers to have engineer-approved and stamped designs for a set of stairs or decks, so that is a hindrance to the small guy, the little guys in the outlying communities that don't have access to engineers. There are not very many engineers that live in outlying communities at all, so that is an issue, that is a problem, but I'll go on.

The next annual general meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities is coming up shortly. Will the minister commit to ensuring the officials from his department are available to respond to concerns from mayors and municipal administrators regarding the administration of enforcement of this *Building Code Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome that question from the member. I have committed to attend the Nunavut Association of Municipalities annual general meeting along with my colleagues, and I will commit to have officials from my department play close attention around the building code permitting process and how it might be better served in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 223 – 6(2): Territorial Immigration Policy and Initiatives

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut.

My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Immigration.

Mr. Speaker, as one of Iqaluit's four MLAs, I am confident that the minister will agree with me when I say that one of the most fulfilling aspects of our role is having the opportunity to represent our capital city's increasingly diverse population.

Mr. Speaker, this diversity is on display on an almost daily basis when we welcome visitors to the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the values of acceptance and diversity that we celebrate as an Assembly apply equally to welcoming new Canadians and new Nunavummiut.

Can the minister clarify what specific initiatives his department is working on in respect to the immigration portfolio? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for her excellent question, which she queried me on. I concur with her assessment as I too take great pride in Iqaluit, as we receive visitors from all over the world who arrive to create a home in this city, and I also am proud of the fact that Inuit are welcoming everyone into the Inuit homelands.

I am proud of that as well, since I too represent one of the local ridings here, along with my colleague, and at this time, we haven't set aside any quotas or limits on the number of people who wish to settle in Canada or Nunavut, so in terms of immigration, however, I have started to study the numbers within our offices.

At this time, we haven't set aside any funding amounts neither do we have any employees specific to this subject, but Mr. Speaker, we are starting to conduct a review of this matter, especially after we received correspondence from the federal government, from the Hon. Sean Fraser, regarding their plans just the day before.

They want to develop immigration plans for the upcoming years for potential new immigrants, and they quoted a total of 500,000 per annum, and we will want to carefully review that however, we have no plans specific to how many will settle here in Nunavut, and whether we can accommodate them or even house them here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that response. As the minister is aware, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial Ministers responsible for Immigration meet on an annual basis.

A recent announcement from this forum indicated that governments have been working to "distribute the benefits of immigration across Canada," including "federal pilot projects to address targeted gaps" in rural and northern regions care workers who are in short supply across the country and around the world.

Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Department of Health in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Immigration. Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to thank her again for that pertinent question, and I also agree with her assertion about the qualified immigrants who could possibly fill technical jobs here in Nunavut.

We would like to place individuals, but due to these artificial barriers, it would behoove us to look outside of Nunavut, within Canada, and if no qualified applicants are available, perhaps we could look outside of Canada.

I have discussed this previously with officials from the EIA offices, and whether we can search further afield and develop plans specific to certain sectors, Mr. Speaker, but again, we run into what everyone is aware of, the lack of housing here in Nunavut. This seems to be the most germane of the barriers impacting development in many places.

We do want to welcome new workers to Nunavut, but our immense housing shortage is the biggest obstacle we face today, and it will also affect any new plans we may draft up to relieve these issues, as any new immigrants would face these same barriers, but what I can state to my colleagues is that we are including this as part of our review.

I have tasked my officials to include various options especially as it relates to our health care shortfalls, in light of several local health centres having to close at times, so we want to study this further, however, this hasn't even been looked at yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recent humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Syria and the Ukraine remind us of our obligations as a caring nation.

As a citizen, I am proud of our record of welcoming refugees into our country, many of whom are fleeing situations that we can only imagine.

As a small jurisdiction, we are obviously not in the same position as larger urban centres to offer a wide range of programs and services, but I believe that we should do what we can do.

For the record, can the minister confirm what our government's position is respecting the resettlement of refugees in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. Pauloosie Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new immigrants have contributed a lot of positive things in Canada. They also carry with them their own culture, and they have contributed a lot. I acknowledge that, and I can say I am open.

As I mentioned earlier, this is an area I want a review. I am committed to have a full review in the coming years, to ensure our priority plans are there. I will want to have a full review. We're not fully established yet, but I think in the upcoming few months, we'll have that review. As Inuit, we know we are always friendly to outsiders. This is something we'll always base it on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 224 – 6(2): Ministerial Letter of Expectation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and are in relation to the letter of expectation that the minister wrote to the board of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, this letter was tabled in the House in June of this year. I look forward to the response being tabled, hopefully, before the end of the current sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has recently released its new Nunavut 3,000 strategy document. I am very confident that many questions will be asked over the coming weeks and months about the details of the strategy, and the new agreement with the Nunavut Construction Corporation, NCC.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's recent letter of expectation to the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Housing Corporation asked the corporation to "Conduct a housing need and demand study to update the data to the Nunavut Housing Survey, and support the development of a purpose-built housing policy."

I would like to ask, can the minister that this work has been completed, and will he commit to tabling its results before the end of our current sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Good afternoon. Thank you to my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I have since received a response from the Nunavut Housing Corporation on my response regarding the letter of expectation. I have given it to the board. In it, the board has committed to working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has committed to work with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation to do that housing needs and demands study, to determine the things that outlined the diverse housing needs across Nunavut and update the Nunavut 2010 Housing Needs Survey.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to making that document available to my colleagues as soon as it is available. I'd like to assure, on the side of the return of the letter of expectation

from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I look forward to tabling that in this House, hopefully before this sitting is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his responses. Earlier this sitting, the Minister of Human Resources indicated that her department continues to have a significant number of unfilled positions, which is impeding the ability of other departments and public agencies to fill their vacancies.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's letter of expectation to the chair of the board of directors of the Nunavut Housing Corporation asked the corporation to, and I quote again, "establish a formal memorandum of understanding with the Department of Human Resources to transfer staffing functions to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I would like to ask: can the minister confirm that this work has been completed and will he commit to tabling a copy of this memorandum of understanding before the end of the fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, the memorandum of understanding is substantially complete. Our staff between the human resources department and the housing corporation is actually working on the physical transfer of such things, and we are at that stage. I don't know if we would be able to table it and have those components all complete before the conclusion of this House, but I would be able to provide it to the colleagues at the appropriate time when everything has been complete and done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. I would like to return again to the issue of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Condominium Program. The minister's recent letter of expectation to the board of directors of the corporation asked "to make every effort to finalize the sale of the remaining units throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year." Mr. Speaker, judging from the responses that I received last week to my questions on the issue, it's unclear if this objective will be met. I would like to ask: can the minister clarify how the chairperson of the corporation's board of directors has responded to him on this specific issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Since the early fall, I've had many conversations with board members and members of the Nunavut Housing Corporation board. As early as three weeks ago when the board of

directors met in Rankin Inlet, I had meetings with the board and had conversations with them outside board meetings, some of which included discussing the situation around the condominium.

Mr. Speaker, the board of directors and the Nunavut Housing Corporation board is committed to ensuring that the condominium sales will be completed during this fiscal year, and we have many issues to work around, some of which I have spoken of earlier in this Assembly regarding insurance and taxes and so on. They are working around them, they are working very hard around them and working with our president and chief executive officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

We are looking and working hard to ensure the condominium units can be sold and in Nunavut. I don't anticipate the board of the Nunavut Housing Corporation not being able to fulfill the request that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 225 – 6(2): Adult Learning Opportunities

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement, I raised the need for more adult learning opportunities in my community of Pond Inlet and in Nunavut's other small communities.

Can the minister clearly explain how the results of community needs assessments are taken into account when determining what courses will be offered at community learning centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to our colleague for the question. The Nunavut Arctic College is always working to expand our college programming as the college is accountable for the development and delivery of new revised and expanded programs.

Our community learning centres are base funded for adult education and expanded delivery is dependent on a few things, including funding, human resources, curriculum, and classroom space. I would like to add, Mr. Speaker, that the college works with several of our partners to identify new program opportunities, including the government, industry, and university partners to determine what programs we can expand and offer into our communities at our communities learning centres. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I have heard all different times that the cost of providing programs is a factor in deciding whether or not to deliver courses or programs. At other times I have heard that money is also available. Can the minister clarify what specific factors are taken into consideration when deciding whether an adult learning program can be delivered into the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and *quana* to our colleague for the question. The Nunavut Arctic College is always looking to expand our programming as I mentioned. We have an internal process that we go through for approving new programs to run these programs in our communities. They go through an academic council, Mr. Speaker. The academic council that the program meets that college's standard.

So with our new and expanded colleague programming I can say that we are very thankful for our third party support that allows us to expand our efforts to offer Nunavut Teacher Education Programs, also the Pre-Health Program, Practical Nurse Program, and all of those programs and the expansion of those programs means that we are able to deliver more programming into our smaller communities across the territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my statement, there are many opportunities for businesses to thrive in Pond Inlet. However, potential entrepreneurs could greatly benefit from a management studies course to make their businesses viable. Will the minister commit to directing the staff at Nunavut Arctic College to look into providing adult learning opportunities that will support the development of small business in my community of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* again to our colleague for the question. The member brought up some great points on programming that we can offer in our community learning centres and I will take her point. I know we have staff that are eagerly listening to these suggestions and we take those points as notice and we will look to see what we can do to expand our programming in communities as we always look to offer new programs for our Nunavummiut to participate in their home communities.

I will say that every year program development is always ongoing and we're always looking at ways to expand opportunities within our community learning centres and to reach more people across the territory. I am thankful for those third-party funders who allow us the opportunity to expand our programmes and offer more courses in our communities across Nunavut. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 226 – 6(2): Departmental Positions

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation) As the minister knows, his department has a number of positions located in a number of Kitikmeot communities. The government's most recent employment report indicates that the department has a total of 11 positions located in Kugluktuk. The report indicates that six of the positions are currently vacant. Can the minister clarify which positions in the community are currently vacant, and can he indicate when his department plans to put them out to competition to fill the vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For communities and also for some of the programs that we have started in Kugluktuk, we are currently working on filling the vacant positions, and hopefully we will see them filled. We know about the vacancy rate in our communities that you are referring to, and we are also concerned about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you. The government's most recent employment report indicates that the department has a total of six positions located in Gjoa Haven. The report also indicates that two of the positions are currently vacant. Can the minister clarify which positions in the community are currently vacant, and can he indicate when his department plans to undertake the competitions to fill the vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A very good question. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I've got a number of detailed information on all our positions. For example, for the Kugluktuk positions under Business Development, the senior advisor in harvesting economy is going for competition, also the program officer, the regional tourism coordinators there. So all those positions that are vacant are either in competition or on their way for competition, and for some we've have hired as casuals. I'd be very happy in more detailed information being provided to the member on exactly which of those positions are being filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second, and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, a recent fire destroyed the building in Gjoa Haven that was used by the government. Can the minister assure the Legislative Assembly that all his department's positions that are located in Gjoa Haven will remain in the community, and not re-located to a regional centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My deepest apologies. I think we are talking about two different communities. I do apologize, Mr. Speaker, for I have been talking about the Kugluktuk positions, not the Gjoa Haven positions. I just want to clarify that in this House, for making that mistake.

For the three positions under Motor Vehicles that are in Gjoa Haven, this space that is there now and we're waiting on the furniture. While we're doing that, we repositioned them in different communities. Once that office is up and running, they are going back to Gjoa Haven as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 227 – 6(2): Status of Fuel Subsidy

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize as I was very relaxed there. There are many things to be proud of, and that is why I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize and to thank the people who work very hard for the Government of Nunavut in the capital, as well as in the outlying communities.

I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services regarding income assistance programs.

These incredibly valuable programs immensely help the people who need them and even provide subsidies for amenities as well as debt reduction for rental arrears. Additionally, the Department of Family Services has a fuel subsidy program which is available to Nunavummiut over the age of 60.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an overview with the status of this program, including how much of the funding is spent every year, and how many Nunavummiut receive this subsidy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. With regard to the programs that the member discussed, I am unsure as to which specific subsidy that she is referring to. There is the Senior Citizen

Supplementary Benefit, as well as the Senior Fuel Subsidy. There are the two programs that are made available to seniors over 60. One is the Senior Supplementary Benefit, which is \$300 a month, and is arranged and delivered through the federal government. There is also the Senior Fuel Subsidy, which is available to homeowners over the age of 60, and provides 4,000 litres of fuel per year following their income limit. There is \$100,000 that is available per year. I still don't have the numbers, but looking at last year's numbers, there were 108 seniors provided the senior fuel subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time that I've heard about the other program and I don't know exactly what it is for. This is the Senior Fuel Subsidy for homeowners that my question applied to.

(interpretation ends) It seems that when residents apply for a subsidy, their obligations are not being properly evaluated. By saying that, can the minister describe what training is provided to her staff who assess applications for the Senior Fuel Subsidy?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. The applications are reviewed in the regional offices in Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung and Cambridge Bay. However, their offices usually review the application and make sure the person is from Nunavut and is over 60 years of age, owns their own home in the community, and also doesn't receive a subsidy already from income support. Also, their salary must be below \$100,000 per year. They can get up to 4,000 litres per year in subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I believe you answered the question on the review of the applications. I just didn't understand it.

So when they're trying to make the decision as to who will get the subsidy, what do they look at for the applications that the people submit? I would like to add this to my final question, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I do appreciate that our government tries to allocate funding in a fair and equitable manner. The eligibility criteria for the Senior Fuel Subsidy includes income thresholds to determine how much of a subsidy a homeowner can receive. With the rising cost of living and maintaining a home, the current thresholds are depriving many seniors of support that they could use to stay living in their own homes.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) will the minister commit to reviewing and

revising the income threshold criteria for the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program to help more seniors with their fuel cost? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that very good question. The fuel subsidies that we provide have been looked at and adjusted as needed, and whenever they buy their own fuel, they are able to get a rebate at a later date. However, we wanted to make changes so that elders don't have to be inconvenienced by having to frequently travel back and forth to the government office in order to access their rebates. We don't want to burden elders with unnecessary tasks, so we have made it easier for elders to access their rebates. We are always looking at other ways that we can improve the current system that we have in place, and this is especially true when you consider the fact that inflation is having a significant impact on people, as everything gets more expensive. We are definitely willing to review eligibility amounts, as there are many people who are employed, but also receive the subsidy based on a review of their salaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 228 – 6(2): Country Food Distribution Program

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say hello to the people of Sanikiluaq.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern the issue of his department's Country Food Distribution Program.

As the minister will remember, he and I recently exchanged correspondence concerning this important program.

Mr. Speaker, in my letter to the minister, I noted the importance of supporting the smaller communities with the costs of utilities associated with the operation of community freezers. In his reply to my letter, the minister indicated that his department's country food distribution policy is scheduled for renewal.

Can the minister confirm that this issue will be considered as part of the review, and can he indicate when the review is expected to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the review, everything that is a part of this will be part of that review. Currently, we do offer funding for the freezer

program, and whether it could be built, or the operations and maintenance of it. That's through a grant to the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, the minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation announced new power rates for the territory. In my letter to the minister, I noted a concern that was raised to me by the Sanikiluaq Municipal Council; that the cost of electricity exceeds up to \$30,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, also in reviewing Schedule 1 of the government's community development grants and contribution policy, which is administered by Community and Government Services, I noted that it indicates that funding is used to offset costs of providing specific municipal programs and services, including utilities. However, it is not clear if the cost of operating a community freezer is considered to be a core municipal program and service.

Can the minister clarify the impact that the new rates will have on the cost of power needed to operate a community freezer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that the freezer program is not part of their hamlet core programs; it is specific. We work directly with the hamlets through grants and contributions for this. One of the ways, through our grants and contributions is if the municipality shows that the cost of electricity is much higher, we can go through that through our reporting system.

Those are the things that we try look at and try and resolve, if those are the cases. That's where we need to review our program, because if \$30,000 is not enough to just cover the electricity, then definitely, we need to assist the municipalities. This is a wonderful program that helps all communities and I want that to succeed. I thank the member for raising this in this House, that way we can definitely look at and assess what we need to do more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Minister Akeeagok. As the minister will remember, he tabled the 2019-2020 *Annual Report on the Country Food Distribution Program* during the Legislative Assembly sitting of March 15, 2021. Can the minister confirm when the 2021... no, when the 2020-21 and 2021-22 annual reports will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a firm date as to when I'll be tabling that. A report like this requires the work. As the member stated,

I tabled it in the March sitting, and if it is on an annual basis, my target date would be for that, for that month to table; but I can't commit right now in terms of exactly when that tabling will occur. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 229 – 6(2): Remote Work Policy

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat, to the ministers and my colleagues across Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I will be asking my question to the Minister of Human Resources. I want to follow up on the issue that was raised yesterday by my colleague from Arviat South concerning the government's proposed new Remote Work Policy.

Mr. Speaker, underserved communities in Nunavut suffer from a high rate of unemployment, and a lack of job opportunities. It is not acceptable for the government to allow non-residents of Nunavut to be eligible for a full-time job as a territorial public servant.

Can the minister assure the Legislative Assembly that the Government will not be hiring non-residents of Nunavut to fulfill positions in the territorial public service?

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for asking that question. As a government, we envision high rates of Inuit employment, and this is an ongoing topic of discussion. However, the truth is that there are not enough trained, or qualified Inuit available to staff these positions. It is always our objective to meet the requirements set about in *Article 23*, but the focus needs to be on training more Inuit to hire for work in Nunavut. We will continue to aim for higher Inuit employment, and as the Remote Work Policy is being worked on, that will definitely be taken into consideration. If we need to hire someone to work outside of Nunavut, we will not put too much weight onto that fact, as the government ultimately envisions Nunavummiut working in Nunavut, because Nunavummiut need to be served by Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask about the same thing. (interpretation ends) The COVID pandemic forced the government to perform some work remotely. I do support the government taking a closer look at what type of work could be performed remotely in Nunavut by Nunavummiut.

As the minister is aware, many residents of underserved communities are bilingual. We should be looking at ways that their skills can be utilized in such an area. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question in that comment. Perhaps the member can repeat the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is asking for clarification to your question. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I missed that. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate that her department's proposed new remote work policy will give preference to residents of non-decentralized communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. The remote work policy has been discussed in detail within the government as to how we can better include the smaller, non-decentralized communities of Nunavut. As I stated before, if we do have people working for the government from outside of Nunavut, using the Department of Family Services as an example, there are people who are taken care of outside of Nunavut. There are also sometimes concerns about where they stay and the conditions that they stay in. We're always talking about ways that all parties can work together to better the services delivered to Nunavummiut.

To date, the Nunavut government has hired Inuit workers that live and work in the south, outside of Nunavut. One example is employees whose job it is to ensure that children in the foster care system are being appropriately cared for by their southern caretakers, and who then report back to the Department of Family Services. This is necessary, and in these situations, we have no choice but to hire people who are not Nunavut residents.

Sometimes we need to have people working outside of Nunavut to make sure Nunavummiut are served properly in the south. Nunavut will continue to face difficulties in hiring Inuit employees until the time that there are sufficient educational and training opportunities for Nunavummiut. Our priority will always lie in hiring more Inuit in Nunavut.

As I stated before, we will have to be approached very dutifully, and we will continue to work hard to achieve that goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide a clear timeline when the proposed new remote work policy will be approved by cabinet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. It's a complicated process. I currently cannot say when this will proceed in the requirement for the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 230 – 6(2): Labour Standards Act

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice, and they are regarding the administration of the territorial *Labour Standards Act*.

As the minister will be aware, section 50 of the legislation establishes legal requirements for employers to pay employees all wages owing to them within ten days of the end of their employment.

Mr. Speaker, I received concerns from a number of constituents whose employment ended, who have had to wait weeks, or even months to receive their final pay. I would like to ask the minister how often the Labour Standards Compliance office receives complaints of the length of time it takes an employer to make a final payment to employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. With the amount of time it takes for the Labour Standards Board to get back to them, I don't have that level of detail on me. Under the *Labour Standards Act*, minimum payment upon termination for employees employed for 90 days or more are entitled to two weeks' notice of termination or two weeks' severance if no notice is provided. They could also contact the office as well at the toll-free number, 1-877-806-8402, or they could also send an email to the office at labourservices@gov.nu.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another issue that I would like to raise is section 39 of the *Labour Standards Act*, which are the family abuse leave provisions. Mr. Speaker, these provisions were passed by the previous Legislative Assembly in the year 2020, and I was very proud to have supported these important amendments. Mr. Speaker, it is now the fall of 2022 and these provisions are not yet in force. I would like to ask: can

the minister confirm when the government will bring these important provisions of the *Labour Standards Act* into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. When this important Act was passed, COVID just happened right after it was passed, and the department was working on COVID leave, but now that things have settled down and restrictions have been lifted, the department is working on a family abuse leave now and we are aiming for early 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. This Legislative Assembly passed the amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* a number of years ago in 2020, which gave Nunavummiut the right to domestic violence leave. Unfortunately, as those provisions have not been brought into force, Nunavummiut do not actually have that right. I appreciate the minister's response and hope that those provisions will come into force as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, section 45 of the *Labour Standards Act* requires the Labour Standards Board to prepare and submit an annual report to the minister in accordance with Part 9 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Can the minister confirm that the Labour Standards Board has been compliant with this section of the legislation, and will the minister commit to tabling the most recent annual report in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The issue of labour standards is very important to Nunavummiut and all people should be looked after properly. We are aiming for the deadline and I do hope to table it before the end of this fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 058 – 6(2): Nunavut Law Foundation Annual Report Year Ending December 31, 2021

Tabled Document 059 – 6(2): 2020 Minimum Wage Annual Report

Tabled Document 060 – 6(2): 2021 Minimum Wage Annual Report

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table three reports: the Nunavut Law Foundation Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2021; and the 2020 and 2021 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have two documents to table today.

Tabled Document 061 – 6(2): 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act

Tabled Document 062 – 6(2): 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

The first document is the 2021-22 audited financial statements under the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act*.

The second document is the 2021-22 audited financial statements under the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 8, 9, and 10 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:26 and Committee resumed at 15:49

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Thank you. I would like to call this committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 8, 9, and 10. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence the review of Bill 9 and after that, continue with the review of the main

capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 09 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022 – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. In the right corner, we have Mr. Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left, I have Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022*.

Bill 9 authorizes the write-off and write-down of certain government assets as follows:

- \$637,580 for the write-off of 14 public housing units in Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, and Gjoa Haven that were destroyed by fire or damaged beyond economic repair and therefore were demolished;
- \$863,301 for the write-down of 55 housing units in various communities that were damaged by fire and mould and will require extensive repairs;
- \$229,726 for the evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products within the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services; and

- \$1,790,685 for the write-off of the Government of Nunavut's leased office building that was destroyed by fire in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions from the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Ms. Brewster, please proceed.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

The standing committee again emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the relevant provisions of the *Financial Administration Act* are complied with concerning the approval of such bills by the Legislative Assembly.

As members will recall, Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, was considered and passed by the Legislative Assembly during its spring sitting. At that time, the standing committee noted that it anticipated entering into an exchange of correspondence with the Auditor General concerning this type of legislation. For the benefit of the public record, I will be tabling a copy of the exchange of correspondence prior to the end of the current fall sitting.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? I see none. Members, go to Bill 9 in your legislative binder so that we can begin the clause-by-clause review. That's the white binder.

I'll just give the members a few minutes here. Okay, we're here. Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022*. Clause 1. Go to Part 1 on page 2. Part1. Asset Write-Off. Nature of Asset. Nunavut Housing Corporation – 14 physical assets. Total. \$637,580. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Go back to.... Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Whoa, the mic is pretty sensitive. Okay. Clause 2. Go to Part 2 on page 2. Sorry. I'm getting mixed up here. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Go to Part 2 on page 2. Part 2. Asset Write-Down. Nature of Asset. Nunavut Housing Corporation – 55 physical assets, in the amount of \$863,301. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sorry. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Part 2 of this write-off for \$863,301, I'm just focusing on one subject here. Of these 55 units, I'll just focus on one subject for the mould. Which communities are being written off with mould that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would like write-off , of 55 housing units in various communities? So which various communities are these write-offs occurring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of houses and they are located in the communities of: Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Rankin Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk. Mr. Chairman, these are the communities; a number of houses in each of these communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Anyone else? Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner : Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister on that. So how many of these are going to happen in Igloolik of those 55 units? I'm just focusing now on Igloolik on the issue of mould. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Anyone else? Okay. Asset Write Down. Nature of Asset. Nunavut Housing Corporation – 55 physical assets. \$863,301. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to the first page. Schedule 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sorry, it is clause 2.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Clause 3. Go to Part 3 on page 2. Assets Write-Off. Nature of Asset. Community and Government Services – Leased office building destroyed by fire in Gjoa Haven. \$1,790,685. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question for the \$1 million. When the government leased that, is there any of the lease that is still outstanding as of now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to explain it in an understandable way. The lease continues, Mr. Chairman, as the lease is leased to own. So, the government is making lease payments on that building and the payments will continue to go forward towards the 'A' building; in this case, this burnt down building. When the owners of that current building that we are leasing from go through the insurance purposes and build a new building, our lease payments will be carried over to that building. At the end of the term of this lease, we will own the building that will be there, obviously not this burnt down one but its replacement. At the termination of the lease, we will own that asset. It's a condition under the lease-to-own, Mr. Chairman. I hope that clarifies the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much of that lease is still outstanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The remaining rent liability is \$1,967,267.70. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Kaerner, do you have any more? Anyone else? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, is there a way to recover the cost of leasing office space in the meantime while we await the build of a replacement building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on that very topic right now in negotiations with the building owner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more on my list. Go to the Schedule. Part 3. Asset Write-off. Nature of Asset. Community and Government Services – Leased office building destroyed by fire in Gjoa Haven in the amount of \$1,790,685. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to the first page. Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Go to Part 4 on page 2. Part 4. Asset Write-off. Nature of Asset. Community and Government Services – Petroleum Products Division inventory lost due to fuel shrinkage in the amount of \$229,726. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 9 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 9 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank the staff across our different departments that participated in working on this document, and I appreciate the questions received this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. We will be going on to Bill 9. Minister Kusugak, if you.... . We will take a two-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:03 and resumed at 16:05*

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Juanie Pudluk, Director of Infrastructure for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my right, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation Mr. Eiryn Devereaux. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. *Ma'na*. We're here to deal with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Expenditures. \$110,510,000. I'll go to the next person on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and Mr. Devereaux and Pudluk. It's nice to see you.

Before I get into my questioning, I just had a few brief comments that I would like to make.

I would like to congratulate the Nunavut Housing Corporation on finalizing and producing the Nunavut 3000 strategic plan in partnership with NCC Development Limited. This is something that was somewhat unfathomable in the previous Assembly, where we saw the Nunavut Housing Corporation's construction cost escalate from \$379,000 a unit in 2017-18, the beginning of the Fifth Assembly, to \$923,000 a unit in 2021-22, the end of our Fifth Assembly. This is a substantial increase in the ballpark of 250 percent.

The Members of the Assembly were constantly raising concern over the rising cost of construction and I'm happy that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken an alternative route to constructing housing in our territory. I appreciate the efforts of reducing the \$1,000 a square foot to something a bit more affordable. I wish you the best of luck in achieving the objectives in the Nunavut 3000 strategic plan and the Master Partnership Agreement. I believe that the large-scale and long-term length and duration of this partnership will enable us to see many benefits across the territory, including not just more affordable units but also training of Nunavummiut.

I would also like to add that I'm very happy to see transitional housing included in this agreement and I hope that it will also incorporate second stage housing. I'm very happy

to see affordable housing to be included as well. That's something else that I have been raising in the Assembly since the Government of Yukon created their own affordable housing fund.

I'm also very intrigued to see market rate aspects of the agreement. There is much potential in Nunavut for homeownership and I believe that homeownership has been on the decline for quite some time. I'm glad to see that is included is included in the aspect of this trend, and actually hitting all aspects of it has to continue. I think that's very important.

So, I'd like to move onto my first question. Earlier today there was a minister's statement about the success of the Renewable Energy Homeowner Grant Program. The minister indicated that they were 66 applicants approved. I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide some further information, as of today, how many applications have been received during the current fiscal year, and if there are any intentions on increasing the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Mr. Lightstone's opening comments, those very concerns and the reason we went with this appropriated with Nunavut 3,000 is those concerns we heard from this Assembly, and previous Assemblies and they keep coming back. You can't solve things if we just stay with the same level of approach. It was the direction of colleagues, like yourselves, that when I talked to you recently, we're going to look for changes, and we can't keep going down the same way.

Are we going to accomplish everything? I hope so. That's our goal. I think this is the start of it. I look forward to the challenges that were brought by this House, and my colleagues right from the day we had our planning session, and setting up our goals, as members of this particular Assembly.

In terms of getting more funding to make more energy efficient and alternative energy, within the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we are working on it. We are working to include retrofits and energy efficient improvements across 500 housing units. Our budget is around \$8 million, and over the course of the agreement, that is extended to 2024.

As we continue down that approach, we are continuing to see if there could be more agreements and maybe look for more funding opportunities. As technology and things are accelerating as we speak, we continue to look to improve and begin to include it in some of the housing packages, and retrofits, and so on, that are coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, one of my colleagues, I believe it was Ms. Brewster, asked questions about the homeownership program income eligibility

limits, which has been an issue for a number of years. The income eligibility threshold has really set a goldilocks zone for tax on homeownership program. You have to earn a certain amount. If you don't earn enough, you're ineligible to become a homeowner. If you earn too much, you're ineligible to become a homeowner.

I was wondering if you could be able to talk a little bit further about your intentions to amend the income eligibility limitations for the homeownership program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I can't get into too much detail on it at this time, because that's one of the many programs we are taking a look at. The housing corporation has a number of programs, and I mentioned some of them in our discussion earlier yesterday, in terms of we have programs for homeowners and potential homeowners, but you have to fit in this sector of this closet on this shelf, on the right and only for so many people. It becomes very limiting. With the high cost of living, the income brackets that we have here, some people have very high income. At the end of the day, it doesn't translate to a higher disposable income necessarily. So we are taking a look at that. There are some limits in some of the programs that are given to us from the federal government that say they need to fit in those brackets.

So we are working to see where we can make those adjustments and how we could make them so that we have a broader, wider range of income of people who can afford to own their own home. There are some people who are in the lower income bracket who are able to do it, but they don't tap in, and you have people who tap out. The other side of that you is you end up with people who could afford to own their own home who are stuck renting a home, and more often than not, they end up in a staff house or in a public housing unit because they make too much money to qualify for down payment assistance.

If the government was to help them, or the Housing Corporation could help, then they would own their own house, freeing up staff housing, freeing up a public house. So we're trying to clean that up, and I know that is not exactly the answer you're looking for, but we are trying to get creative and making as many people qualify as we can. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's response. For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are potential homebuyers that are listening to proceedings today, would you be able to provide an update as to when they can expect to see some amendments to the income eligibility thresholds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of items that our department or the Housing Corporation is working on, and we are working through staffing issues also. Our goal is to have these completed hopefully by summer. That is our goal and we might be able to reach it before then, but if we look within the next 8-10 months it's more realistic, as we have a number of these different programs that we are going through right now and reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's response and providing a realistic estimation as to when amendments can be put forward with homeownership programs. You indicated that there are many other items that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is focussing on. I am assuming that would likely be with the different aspects with the Nunavut 3000 Strategic Plan, such as the affordable housing aspect. I was wondering if the minister might be able to elaborate a little bit more about how the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the NCC will be able to spur on the affordable housing sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, Mr. Chairman, we have learned over the years and knowing our clients and through past studies that have come forward, there is a need for affordable housing. I think that is a very good way to transition into homeownership. Mr. Chairman, we are working with and we will be working with NCC and other entities to see how we could begin to use funding to create affordable housing in communities where it would be able to be taken advantage of. If I could through, you Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Devereaux elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. As the minister said, we see great opportunities to try to incentivize the delivery of affordable housing. Some of the contemplations on how we would do that is first of all, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is trying to work through strategies to reduce the capital cost, and we've demonstrated that in terms of the Nunavut 3000 program and now we have to implement that. That was sort of step one, how do we bring housing supply into the market at lower capital costs?

The next step is, we were targeting 900 affordable units throughout the 8 to 10 years and now what we're contemplating and what we hope to bring forward in the next six to nine months is a new affordable housing strategy. Early contemplations on what that might look like, subject to the required approvals, would be not that much different than what we're seeing in other jurisdictions, or at the federal level, where in our case the housing corporation would provide a capital co-investment at the front end and that could be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to \$150,000 per unit. In exchange for that, we would

enter into a funding agreement with the builder, the landlord, the developer, and seek to get a reduction in that either rental rate or homeownership purchase price relative to that capital co-investment.

When we built this strategy, we envisioned that that would be one way to try to incentivize an increase in the number of affordable housing units, and then we also envisioned, on top of that potentially, bringing forward an approach where, based upon income, we would even further support potential affordable homeowners or affordable renters with a rental supplement based upon their income. The mix of those two, a capital co-investment at the front end, and potentially a rental supplement through the rental period, we hope to be able to hit more families to be able for them to move into some of these units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Devereaux, for that information. If I recall correctly, the CMHC's co-investment program operates annually and it is initiated through an expression of interest seeking individuals or organizations interested in building affordable housing to make submissions. Is that what the Nunavut Housing Corporation has in mind? I'm just trying to wrap my head around how NHC will be enabling affordable housing. You mentioned a dollar figure, \$50,000 to \$150,000 per unit, but how soon will this be initiated, and how will NHC be seeking interested individuals and organizations and how will those applications then be decided upon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that question. We are working on those strategies right now; in fact I've had a meeting with my federal counterpart as recently as two weeks ago. When I was in Rankin I had a telephone conversation with the minister and we talked about affordable housing. We talked about, actually, this document before us. It was very supportive and we will continue to communicate those conversations with our federal counterparts and try to get more funding.

It's always exciting to hear, when we are trying to get into building capacity, homeownership, and that program in itself, I think, begins to bring people towards homeownership and affordable living. We are still at the learning stages in terms of how we are going to tackle it completely and then bring it out to the people of interest, but we will use the different media sources we do have. We already have people that have interested in contacting our offices and departments within the different regions, and head offices.

People are very eager for this, and we will continue down that path as we move forward, keeping people informed, as we get closer to finalizing where we want to begin these projects. We will go to those communities and let them know that we are looking at

building affordable housing unit of six houses, or whatever, and go route, amongst other ideas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. While I wait for the next person on my list to come on this, I just want a bit of a clarification here. I was going to ask what affordable housing is, but Mr. Devereaux explained that so we have a better picture. How about market housing units. Can the minister explain to the members here what market housing units are? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Those are private sector housing units, Mr. Chairman. Those units will be for public consumption to homeownership. There would be no subsidy, unless there was a down payment assistance through them, but they are the private sector housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Next person on my list: Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm grateful regarding Nunavut 3,000 plans that you got for building houses. One of the ridings of Chesterfield Inlet, apparently, it will be getting 20 units, but that will be in the next eight years, or so. Any plans to build any other units besides the 20 in the near future for Chesterfield Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans to build units in Chesterfield Inlet are as early as 2024-25, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There have never been any staff housing units, and still for the longest time, for Chesterfield Inlet. Any plans to build any staff housing for Chesterfield Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is to build ten affordable housing units in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Going to Rankin Inlet. Any plans to build a new warehouse for the local housing association so that they'll be able to store their materials, and vehicles, and also to increase their workshops? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the announcement here, I had indicated there are a number of communities that are in the planning and design phases. The Rankin Inlet housing warehouses would be going through that same phase at an appropriate time, based on need and different assessments. All the communities are on that list, so there will become a time when Rankin Inlet's replacement of office space and warehouses would be brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any more? Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raised my hand yesterday. Thank you for recognizing me. Welcome minister and your officials. I have just a few questions. (interpretation ends) Under the Home Renovation Program, as of today how many applications have been received during the current 2022-23 fiscal year, and how many of these applications have been approved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. We have different applications for home renovations. Just bear with me for a minute. For 2021-22.... . Which one is the home renovation one though? There are so many acronyms on here, Mr. Chairman. For the Home Repair Program, we've had 71 new applications, with 12 approvals, 11 declined, and three applications were waitlisted, while six applications were incomplete and they are trying to complete those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the 2021-22 projects that were approved in Pond Inlet but were not able to go ahead as they could not be accommodated by sealift, will they be going ahead in 2022-23? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those projects that have been approved for financing, but are still waiting for materials, as soon as the final paperwork is approved, then the work gets the go ahead. Mr. Chairman, sometimes I realize that some of the parts for that construction, sometimes they come in late but the finances that were slated for that project will not be moved to another project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please feel free to interrupt me if I am off topic. With regard to some of the delayed projects, some of the people involved are elders and those of us who live in the smaller communities don't have access to contractors. Some smaller communities generally don't have as many contractors as the larger communities. Those of you who live in larger communities have access to proper contractors.

Now the applicants that are approved are given the names of specific contractors that they can call and they are asked to call the contractors themselves. These are elders, often unilingual, and are not knowledgeable in the details of what is a confusing matter to begin with. We currently do not have any resources in place to be able to help them. Can this situation be improved, especially for the elders? I hear you. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. It's not capital, but the minister has the freedom to answer if he wants. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I will respond to it a little bit. I don't want to go on and on about it because it's an O&M matter, but I would like to say that those of us in the Housing Corporation, whenever we give out contributions or grants for work on houses, we want that money to be used for the construction and not just be sitting there. We are looking at it right now and if we could compile a bunch of contractors onto a list and have them available, maybe these programs will be more attractive in the communities to apply to. Sometimes the project is so small and the contractors are not interested in small projects. We want the things that they want improved to be improved too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Another question I would like to ask is about staff housing. We are appreciative that Pond Inlet is allocated housing because we have a lack of housing too. (interpretation ends) How many vacant staff housing units were transferred to the local housing organizations for use as public housing units during the 2021-22 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the numbers for that, but once I find out what they are, I can relay that to the member through the chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will be expecting that then. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. The centralized communities have vacant houses for a long time now, and some of them are

now unlivable because they need to be renovated first. Are there many houses like that that are in disrepair? Are there any plans to renovate them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: All combined, the staff houses that are unlivable total 98 in total as of October 20. We have 1,746 staff houses in Nunavut, and of those, 98 are not livable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. My other question was: of those buildings that are unlivable, are they going to be repaired? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ones that can be repaired will be. This number remains around that number all the time. There are units that become livable, and then we have staff leaving or moving out of units who no longer work for the government. Their old units usually need to be repaired too, so that number sort of stays around that area, but it doesn't mean that they are the same houses. They always need to be renovated every time somebody moves out, so that number stays around that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also thank the minister. Let me move onto something else. It's about houses with mould. Reading the substantiation sheet, if there is an emergency in a community caused by mould, and a tenant gets a letter from a doctor stating that, I don't see anything in writing, and our community is not included in the list of communities, that's Pond Inlet. Is there any other money that is a house becomes mouldy, and they get emergency repairs for it? Is there money for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes. We try to get the mould remediated. We have a hard time keeping up. There is funding available for private homes if they experience moulding. There is a mould program and emergency repair program that is available for things that need to be worked on right away. They can request for funding for that. It's the same thing for homeowners. They can request for funding too. However, for local public housing associations, they try to work on mould remediation all the time in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. If there was an emergency repair required for mould, would that be remediated right away? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. The housing association have trained mould remediation, as long as it's not too mouldy. They do repairs. They're trained in Pond Inlet. We have annually \$7 million to deal with mould remediation for public housing houses. The 2023-2024 there are a number of communities; Pond Inlet is one of those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. It's good to hear this. In conclusion, thank you for the housing association will be getting a new building. They have an old office which used to be a garage. It's good to hear that that's in the works.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's Five Year Capital Plan indicates that \$4 million will be allocated on an annual basis for the local Housing Organization Workshop Warehouse and Administrative Offices Replacement Project. The capital substantiation sheet for this project indicates that the design and construction of the new Local Housing Organization facilities in Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven will each cost between \$10.6 million and \$19.5 million. The total cost to replace the facilities will be approximately \$82 million.

How will the annual allocation of \$4 million will adequate to complete these projects before the end of the 2029-2030 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's quite simple, Mr. Chairman. If we don't increase that amount, it'll just take longer to accomplish all those warehouses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next person on my list: Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and your officials. I would like to start off with the minister's opening comments on the first page. It states here that federal government has committed \$70 million for public housing funding, along with funds from the Nunavut Housing Corporation existing surplus. So if the minister further explains how much existing surplus is there at this time around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to find my own comments here. Just one moment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your patience. We are looking at after closing out this year about \$50 to \$100 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the amount that you just said. So still on the same subject, Mr. Chairman, with this housing supply gaps in saying that, so let's say if funding for public housing construction were unlimited, what is the maximum number of new public housing units that could be realistically constructed on an annual basis given the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current capacity to manage the public construction, to manage \$250 million? What is a realistic number on an annual basis when it comes to this *Igluliqatigiingniq* – building houses together of 3000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends): The Minister did state 300 to 350 housing units if the money was unlimited but if the minister wants to elaborate on that, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, that question was asked earlier on, but let me just put it in terms just public housing units; somewhere around 150 to 200 public housing units a year would be maxing it out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I said “realistic numbers” is the correspondence of October 13, 2022 stated that 1400 public housing units, and if I understand it correctly, although they will be in all locations, that is why I wanted to get a further elaboration from the minister. So how many of these numbers will be going to Amittuq? When I speak about Amittuq, I am talking about Igloolik and Sanirajak generally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the over the life of this Nunavut 3000 document, I assume my colleague is referring to, right? So that would be for Igloolik, we are looking at 80 new public housing units, 60 affordable housing units and 20 new market units. For Sanirajak, we'd be looking at 15 public housing units, 10 new affordable housing units for a total of 65. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the information that I was looking for. Now, I would like to move onto this agreement in principle with NCC Development Limited. On page 7, Mr. Chairman, of this agreement in the section F,

when it comes to the Inuit labour, it says here that the Inuit labour targets for affordable housing units and market housing units for lasted targets for Inuit Pre-Trades Apprenticeship and Journeymen resources and so on. As, the minister has stated, there will be a 10 affordable units for Sanirajak and 60 for Igloolik. So how will the Nunavut Housing Corporation keep track of these pre-trades, those who have pre-trades in electrician, plumbing, and carpentry? How will these be tracked between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll allow that question because it pertains to part of the plan. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be working closely through this agreement. At each stage of this agreement, we were looking at building houses, whether they're private or public. There will be training plans in each of these and we will be working with NCC. We will also be working with the college and the trade school and through Family Services, so it will be a collaborative effort.

In order for individuals to get their certifications in the different trades that they will be in, the contractor, in this case, NCC, it's in their best interest also to see that they're getting funding for their tradespeople and apprentice people. There will be a process to ensure that people taking the trades program and apprenticeship program are monitored. There are progresses in place to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing my question to go on. Still on this agreement on the next page of 8 of the agreement of 5.2 on page 8, most favoured customer, and so NCC is represented and NCC will be the most favoured customer. How will these other bidders be seen, for instance, Kudlik Construction and other construction companies? How will the bidding at least be equal? When Mittimatalik's MLA has mentioned that when it comes to contracting, how will these be laid out when other bidders are at least bidding for construction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have an agreement to work NCC in terms of every year, the agreements we have with NCC will have to go through approval of this Assembly when it comes to expenditures on building the units we have agreed to build with NCC, but there is nothing stopping us and we will go out and look for contracts and tender programs that the other private sector interested contractors could bid on, Mr. Chairman.

This agreement with NCC will not stop the other construction companies out there to continue to be able to bid on projects. What this agreement we have with NCC is a commitment to build a certain number of houses and the funding we do have allows us to build more houses beyond the money we will use to build the houses with NCC. We are

hoping that there will be interest from the existing or new construction companies out there, outside NCC, to bid on other projects that would be coming out for tender. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to Mr. Kaernerk, just for clarification then, will there be houses that only the NCC Development Corporation will build or will there be a chance for other companies to bid on the exact same projects or are there going to be “These units will be NCC builds and these are going to tender”? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Exactly, Mr. Chairman, what you just said. We have an agreement to build a certain number of houses with NCC and on the negotiated rates that we will have with them, and then there will be other units that we will be seeking other contractors to be able to bid on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the clarification. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just about to leave, but thank you for the clarification on that part.

As this agreement is in the Master Partnership Agreement, in general, if the minister can enlighten us on the agreement between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited, will this agreement work when it comes to building houses together for Nunavut 3000? Is this a good agreement or will a new amendment need to be done? That’s my question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I hope so, Mr. Chairman. We went into this agreement through negotiation wanting it to work and wanting the best agreement for the Government of Nunavut. I would not agree to sign an agreement with NCC that would not work for the Government of Nunavut and likewise for NCC. I think that this is a good partnership agreement. I think all sides will benefit from this. NCC will be able to plan and look to longer term building. They will get to train the Inuit that they want to train.

We get a good deal in terms of the number of houses we could build with the cost of construction. Mr. Chairman, last year we sat here and we were saying \$1,000 a square foot. This agreement drops that significantly, which means we get to open more doors and different kinds of doors. Not everybody is looking for a public house. There are people who are just looking for mere beds and shelters and homeownership and affordable housing. Mr. Chairman, I really hope this is a good deal for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to Mr. Kaernerk again, just for clarity and for the information of the committee, how long is this agreement for? What was the duration of the agreement? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: It's a ten-year agreement, Mr. Chairman, but it has to be renewed every year. We have a ten-year agreement, but if either side decides that this is not going right, if either party is saying that the rates are going too high or not, each side would have an opportunity to opt out, but in our agreement, we have a commitment to work together to make this go through. Mr. Chairman, I think it's something that hasn't been seen or done and I look forward to making it work. I know that NCC, in speaking with them, looks forward to seeing it work also. I think it's a very good compromise on all sides. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister on that. I hope and definitely that the partnership will work, and I'm glad that the minister has further explained that this partnership agreement will be reviewed every year for ten years. Hopefully there won't be any new amendments coming forward.

In stating that, Mr. Chairman, now moving on to my next question here, let me still focus on this \$7 million mould assessment and remediation. For this budget here, I would like to thank the Nunavut Housing Corporation for having mould assessment and remediation in Amittuq of Igloolik and Sanirajak. Thank you. Is this \$7 million sufficient enough for this mould assessment and remediation? Is this \$7 million enough to cover all these assessments and remediation when it comes to mould? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This mould remediation money is \$7 million per year. At \$7 million per year, we should be able to continue to take a hold of or decrease the number of mouldy units that are out there. Currently we are doing an experimental new homeowner training where people are being taught how to take care of their own homes and how to clean the mould and how to maintain their homes. Through this program and this \$7 million a year in terms of mould remediation, up to 36 units a year, we are anticipating we should be able to at least get a good hold of the mould problems we have in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that response. I assume this \$7 million a year is enough to cover all of the assessment and the remediation when it comes to dealing with this mould issue. I'm sure it's across Nunavut, so now, Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions, but I would like to see this \$7 million. Can the minister assure me that this \$7 million; will there be any increases or will it be the same? That will be my last question for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not anticipating a decrease of that \$7 a million a year nor an increase at this time. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go to the next person on my list I would just like a clarification again. Minister, you stated that carryover was between \$50 and \$100 million. That is a huge spread when most departments are down to the dollar on how much carryover they have. Can we get something more precise as to what it was as of March 31, 2022? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have to realize, Mr. Chairman that we have had to cancel building units for the last two years. So I don't have the exact figure of where we are but I know it's a variable number and when I get that detailed number I will definitely share it with my colleague, through your chairmanship, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Alright, and I look forward to hear that because that is quite a spread. I have never heard of any other department or corporation with such a spread for carryover when asked, so we look forward to hearing the actual numbers. The next person on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you and your officials for being here. I will keep my comment brief. Considering the partnership to build housing, no doubt it is something that has been wanted for a long time and spoken about. Perhaps with outside organizations working with government, (interpretation ends) building houses together in Nunavut, (interpretation) that partnership was really needed, I acknowledged that myself because the shortage of housing up here in our communities in the arctic is huge and it's something of wanton. So with your partnership with NCC, looking at the outline and the responses you gave on that partnership, I see any concerns at this time and I really like the fact that this is a 10-year contract, but will be reviewed on an annual basis if changes may be needed. I see it as very positive planning.

Listening to NCC and what activities they do, they are committed and they have very good experience. I don't think this is a mistake and I'm really happy with this exercise. The question I have concerns the 175 to 200 houses that are in the planning stages. The question I have is: with units you'll building, if you have 20 in a community, that you'll seek four-plex or five-plex buildings, whatever they may be, I'm talking about public housing units. With that government, as you mentioned earlier, if I may shift my attention here. Training and working with the Arctic College that this planning will take place. Now with respect to the communities and municipalities, in view of working relationships, not at the last stages. If that is something you'll be focusing on? That is my first question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When units are being built in communities, first we have to make sure that land is available. That's the first step in the planning stages. We look at each community. For example, we'll be building 20 units in Arctic Bay on the following year, or thereafter. We would be in the planning stage and see if there are lands available. Are there access roads? Are the actual lots ready? Will the electricity, and so forth, will be ready for connection. These are things that we plan ahead with the hamlets, any government, and we notify in advance, along with the local housing authorities to inform them that so many units to be built. These all have to be planned at the very start.

In our agreement here, if they are going to the community build housing, they will have to first look at if any local labour is available in carpentry, plumbing, and from there when the construction proceeds during the year, they will not be just building for one year. They have to work in another community the following year; the training would continue on in that other community. That's the agreement we have in place, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying this. The reason I asked the question was that with CGS, I think CAM is involved as well, if it's with through lands. Some communities have problems as well. As an example, the problem I had in my community. The potential lots on areas where units may be built have to be assessed. We know our communities. This is our area that would be the best place to build lots. You say those are outlined and assessments are made.

With respect to people who do the assessments have to be done at the last stage and now we hear we have quite a number of buildings being built, not in just one community but you'll have more business.

We want to see the communities in places like Kugluktuk, Arctic Bay, and Rankin Inlet, and the support that they will need and be thoroughly planned ahead, because you won't want to miss something else. I want this to move ahead diligently. As we agreed earlier, \$863,301 assets that were forgiven, now how then will the communities be...as I've seen in one community where one community in Nunavut... there are many problems with mould and the units will have to be destroyed.

Now, going to previous comments made, in a way people may not be getting housing, looking at that angle, I already see that more housing will be needed right away too. It's just a question and I just want to hear a little further on this area. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly where you're coming from and how I can respond is that we have to work with the federal

government to make sure that there is land available, lots are available, or if there is enough infrastructure built to provide water and sewage. We want to make sure, using Rankin Inlet as an example, we can make additional buildings, because there wasn't enough infrastructure and there is now construction of the Utilidor system in my community.

So, we will have to plan ahead to make sure that we're prepared to build the houses and make sure that all the requirements are in place. In terms of the write-offs, those are for vacant units that are inhabitable, and also houses damaged by fire and moulded. Those are vacant units because they are not habitable, if you understand me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to return to the homeownership programs. Earlier in the sitting I raised concern over the fact that condo corporations are ineligible from accessing the emergency repair programs. I was wondering if the minister would be able to elaborate a little bit further what exactly is the rationale for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of different concerns, issues, when we talk about condo corps and different emergency repair, down-payment assistance programs, or modernization and improvement programs. If I could have Mr. Devereaux, through you, respond, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I don't have an explanation as to why behind that. It was certainly before my time. I know that with the Nunavut Housing Corporation programs, they're really targeted at families and individuals as compared to companies or organizations.

Having said that, the condo corporation, you have this legal entity and it's made up of a board of directors and owners and those owners, really, are individual homeowners but they're a part of this corporation. There are some limitations or challenges to a corporate entity getting subsidies and grants from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I don't have an answer to your question, but what I can say is the minister alluded to us undertaking a comprehensive review of our current suite of homeownership and rental programs and aligning that with the Nunavut 3000 strategy and how we can expand upon the delivery across the housing continuum.

When it comes to affordable housing and market housing, I think we recognize that one of the approaches to delivering more housing supply that's more cost effective and affordable is sort of higher density, and if we want some more of those multiplex type units that will be more affordable, in some cases, to be homeownership units, then we're going to have to support condos. I think that, as we do that, we want to see more examples of condo corporations across Nunavut that would allow homeowners to purchase more affordable units in a larger building that would have to be open to how we can support those individuals through repair programs in future years as they may need them.

I think that, in our homeownership review that we're undertaking over the next eight to ten months, I think we will have a look at that because we have to figure out how to build capacity and support the growth of condos across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to the construction of public housing and staff housing units in collaboration with NCC Development Limited. I was curious: how will the NHC ensure that NCC is held accountable for making all project financials publicly available in an accessible and transparent format for the public to view and interact with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Devereaux speak towards that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. In reference to the partnership agreement and the associated amending agreements that are spoken to, there are really two types.

We entertain each year the possibility of getting into a design-build, fixed price construction contract with NCC to build public housing units. In addition, we talk about getting into funding agreements for the delivery of affordable and market housing units. Those construction contracts for public housing units will be no different than any other form of design-build construction contracts that we have done in the past or will continue to do in the future.

Each year there would be annual disclosures through the tabling of our contract reporting documents, which I believe we're tabling in the next few days, and that would disclose all the contracts that we have entered into, who those contracts are with, and the value of those contracts. That will be no different for NCC, that disclosure will happen, as it will for the other ones that we're planning to put out to tender or RFP this year for the other 60 units.

In terms of affordable housing or market housing, really, the disclosures on that would be around whether it was NCC or whether it was some other not-for-profit entity that we were trying to support through, let's say, the affordable housing capital co-investment. It would just be us offering a funding program and us having an intake of proposals and then providing approvals. I think, on an annual basis, we had committed through the Nunavut 3000 strategy to report on all of the approvals we did for funding under the affordable housing program and that wouldn't be any different for NCC; we would report on that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Does the NCC agreement include Inuit participation stipulations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most definitely, there are huge stipulations in terms of Inuit employment and also, I think more importantly, training for Inuit into the trades fields.

In the discussions we've had with NCC, they were the ones who got excited when it came to training opportunities because NCC has been very heavy and very high in training Inuit people, and they got excited with the opportunity to train their workforce. They're looking at numbers in terms of pre-trades participation from 60 to 70 for the 2023-24 year, just as an example, and they're looking to carry these pre-trades trainees right through to getting their tickets and taking them from one site to another.

One of the biggest challenges, I guess, that the housing corporation and other entities have had is the construction year lasts for a year to a year and a half, and then the tenders go out again and they may or may not win them in maybe a different community, but with NCC, they will be able to carry this pre-trades and trades workforce with them as they move into different communities, and so yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I was very happy to hear that training potential included in the announcement of the agreement, but I was wondering: for the upcoming construction season, what is the target Inuit participation rate for the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still in discussions about that. It's going to vary. These will vary within the different communities, the availability of the workforce, and if there's an interest in this. I know the NCC and we are excited about

this and we're going to aim high and hopefully hit high, but we still don't have any numbers completed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. In the strategic partnership agreement it includes an image of the new NCC office building here in Iqaluit, which was built utilizing Greenstone Insulated Composite Envelope (ICE) Panels. Does the NHC and NCC plan to use these ICE, or insulated composite envelope panels, to build units in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, not necessarily in all of them, but in terms of are they planning to use that? Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I'm not entirely sure about the thermal rating of the insulated composite envelope panels that were used in the NCC building, but I was curious why more established technologies like structurally insulated panels other than Greenstone insulated composite envelopes aren't utilized or being considered for NHC-constructed units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't mean to speak for NCC, but the Greenstone and that kind of insulated panels is very new technology and it's very energy efficient. In fact the company is located in Brandon, the company that NCC is working with. I was fortunate enough on my way back from the provincial, territorial and federal housing ministers' conference in Saskatchewan, on my drive back to Winnipeg we stopped in and had a tour of the facility to get a first-hand look at what this entails. It looks very promising, it looks very secure, warm and very efficient, and it will save the corporation and this government a lot of money in heating solutions, and it looks like a pretty reliable way going forward in building, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone. (interpretation ends) Oh, sorry. Next person on my list: Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials.

Before I begin, I want to take 30 seconds to congratulate a constituent in my riding, who happens to be my predecessor, Mr. Allan Rumbolt. Mr. Chairman, Allan Rumbolt has been appointed to be a director of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*, Mr. Rumbolt will serve three years as a director. I commend

that the Nunavut Housing Corporation chose Rumbolt, who has good experience within the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Chairman, in our Sixth Legislative Assembly's *Katujjiluta* mandate, within the context of aging with dignity in Nunavut, the government's strategic outcomes to achieve the actions that are already underway, and the Government of Nunavut is ambitious and will accelerate the development of purpose-built housing units for elders and for seniors. Will the government commit to building housing units within Nunavut 3000 for the population of elders and seniors in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Malliki)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, congratulate Mr. Rumbolt to the board and I look forward to working with him on this Nunavut 3000, and he will be a stickler on that and I look forward to that.

In terms of purpose building for elders and those with disabilities, I totally support that. I would go further that we need to do that, but we also have a population of single moms out there that need to have special housing towards them. We have a vast variety of a population out there with many different needs, and I really hope that we are able to accommodate at least most of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. In Nunavut and in my community of Hudson Bay, there are housing units that are standalone that have exceeded their lifecycle, that do not meet the modern standards today. Will the government commit to replacing the old units that were built as late as the 1950s using the Nunavut 3000 strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't not commit that the Housing Corporation will be building replacing a house for a house. None-the-less, those houses have run through their cycle and in communities, not to name any communities, but there will be communities where the houses such as those will be taken down and put multi-facility dwellings in there, like a six or ten-plex in place in three or four of those houses.

Many of those houses have prime locations and lots in communities, so a combination of those things will happen. I know in talking with NCC and looking at affordable housing and the private sector market, those lots become very.... People looking to build their own houses often look at those lots to build them on because that ground has been sitting firm for all of those years and it's in a prime location.

So yes, to replace them one for one, but maybe also we will take away some of those units and replace them with multi-dwellings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include \$10 million in voted funds of new staff housing units. In which communities are the units planned to be constructed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: We are looking at the 10 staff housing unit at.... I'm just trying to find out here. Just one moment. Okay, I did read this right. We have allocated locations where we are building 60 public and staff housing units outside from the NCC ones. We just haven't decided yet which of those 60 are going to be staff housing units. We haven't made that final decision yet as to where they will be held. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Information published on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website indicates that a Tenant-to-Owner Program is currently suspended pending further review. What specific elements of the program are being reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give a fuller response to the first part where we talked about \$10 million for those staff housing units, that doesn't include that we might get into more leasing of staff housing units also, that we would not build, but lease. So there would be more than 10 at the end of the day. Again, that number we haven't completed yet.

In terms of the lease-to-own; that has been put on hold for some time before I became the minister and before Mr. Devereaux joined our team. We are taking a look at that. Right now it is one of things that we would like to bring back because there is a lot of interest out there of housing tenants who would love to be able to own a public housing unit.

So we are revisiting that and in doing that we are reviewing what worked and what didn't work when it was going on at the time. Staff have changed since then, so we are taking a look at it and looking forward to reintroducing something similar to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've read Nunavut 3000 so my constituents will be informed. So when and how many units should they expect per building or homes to be built in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. For Sanikiluaq we are looking at building new homes for public housing, 10 of them and for affordable housing, and we will only lease units that are not too expensive and there would be 20 of them. So a total of 30 for Sanikiluaq are being planned for the coming years starting in 2024-25. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions and clarifications. Mr. Chairman, I believe this is the first year where we've been given a budget to approve for x number of houses for x number dollars, but it doesn't state what kind of houses they are. For example, ok we're going to get a 5-plex in this community and 5-plex in this community, 10-plex in this community. Can we have a breakdown on the new houses that are going to be built with this budget as to what kind of houses they will be? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the question and the concern fully but we're not quite there yet, Mr. Chairman. We are trying to nail those numbers by figuring out exactly where we are going to build them and how many. So by early January I should have those figures and I will be more than happy to share them with my colleagues. I know it is a bit vague and this is a first time that we are going at this too. It was late in the game when as early as 2 weeks ago we were able to come to an agreement and so that's the best I can give you at this time, Mr. Chairman. I assure you, I will share those details as soon as I have them, through your Chairmanship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the public housing units, they want to build 175 to 200. In all of the years we knew exactly how many public housing units were going to be built and can the minister explain why there is not a direct number on the number of houses that will be built? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: We have a very good idea of exactly how many. In terms of the public housing units that we are looking for, we have them on page 23 of the plan. The numbers are there, and in terms of going forward, I look forward to next fall when we go

to standing committee. We will have firm numbers in terms of where they are going to be built and exactly how many there will be. Just because this is our first one it's hard to come to the final numbers in terms of exactly how many –plex they will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought it up, is because it's in the first page of his opening comments. It saying the Nunavut Housing Corporation's surplus we plan to initially build approximately 170 practically 200 public housing units in the upcoming fiscal year. That's why I brought it up.

Mr. Chairman, with the houses that are going to be built, they have made an agreement with the NCC development corporation and build these on some will go to tender. In my community of Arviat, the Sakku Corporation is set to manufacture a house building factory, for the lack of a better word.

Has the minister reached to Sakku to see how they could fit in to providing houses, maybe just the Kivalliq or Nunavummiut because when this plan is operational, and it should be by next year in Arviat, the Inuit employment is going to be really high. There are lots of Arviarmiut that want to work, and they're willing to work. I'll just ask the minister any discussions with Sakku Housing Building Manufacturer that will be in Arviat? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not had an in depth discussion with NCC, in terms of what it is they are going to be building there, and at what cost they will be. How they will be transporting them from that community to the rest of Nunavut, or Kivalliq, or even the cost of building them. So, no, I haven't had that discussion. I would fairly guess that they would have to be discussions between Sakku and NCC, if NCC wanted to work with them on some of the units.

We also have, as I said earlier, there will tenders going out for housing units outside. We're looking at tendering out 60 different units of public housing units across Nunavut. In those, I don't know if Sakku would be bidding on those units. That would be their prerogative, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past the Nunavut Housing Corporation put out the design and the contractors bid on design. We heard earlier when the minister said NCC is going to be doing design build, they will do the design and then they'll build it.

The 60 units that are going to be tendered, are they also going to be design-built? Or are the designs going to be sent out by the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at both scenarios. It will most likely be design-build for those other 60, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to one of my colleagues asked about the NCC Inuit employment numbers, and the minister said they're aiming high, hoping high, and they hope to have high Inuit employment numbers.

Does the minister know what the Inuit employment numbers for NCC are right, so we can have a baseline? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No I don't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would recommend that the minister have talks with NCC, or his officials, because the operating history of a company is a good indication of how they operate, so they have high employment numbers right now, and then they'll likely to have high Inuit numbers. If their Inuit content is pretty low right now, odds are it might be low. I'm not saying its low, but I'm just saying, generally, a company doesn't change too much, in terms of how they operate. That's what they know, and that's what they do.

I'll ask the minister, are there any plans to see what their Inuit numbers are before the construction season? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. We've had discussions with NCC. They got excited when we talked about the training programs and the Inuit content. In talking preliminarily about the new office building that they had there, they were saying that they've had really high Inuit content in that labour force in building that facility. In just doing a walk-through of the building, there were definitely more visible Inuit working in that building than other people. I don't anticipate having a problem with Inuit hires.

When I went on a trip outside last year, on a flight to Winnipeg, the construction crew that went out of Rankin, in one of the housing projects in Rankin, there were 12 people on the flight and 16 people who are working on that building. I don't anticipate we're going to have that kind of ratio, but I anticipate we're going to have good numbers and I take the advice of my colleague from Arviat South that I will have conversations with the leadership of NCC in terms of ensuring that we have as high of Inuit content as possible and that Inuit who want to work there are given an opportunity to do so. I don't take that lightly, Mr. Chairman, and I'll take his recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on the opening comments, on page 4 when they talked about the 300 transitional housing units, 1400 public housing units, 900 affordable units, 400 market housing units, we heard earlier when the minister said that these market housing units are ones that are built privately and are marketed privately, which I understand the Nunavut Housing Corporation has no control over because it's market housing, how was the number 400 arrived at? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

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

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

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for the question. I think when we were in the early stages of developing this very ambitious strategy, one of the foundational components was we recognized that the corporation, traditionally, always just focused on public housing and to solve of them the housing situation, in terms of public housing, we had to look broader.

We recognized that coming up with an 8 to 10 year strategy focused just on public housing wouldn't really solve the problem and so we recognize the important of market housing, affordable housing, and transitional housing. We also recognize that we're not necessarily going to be directly involved or able to incentivize a certain number of market housing units, but we thought as part of this strategy, we absolutely had to recognize that. We had to put a target out there.

We do have some influence, the minister mentioned with the NDAP program we can probably support some potential home buyers that would purchase market housing units. The other thing we could incentivize is when we looked at this partnership and we were negotiating that, we saw the uptake on potentially 2,000 units that, through that, we could incentivize a partner like NCC to say "if you're wanting to build 'X' number of public housing units, you also have to look at 'X' of affordable units and market housing units. I think we realized that there will be market housing development whether we put this target there or not, and we want it to at least have a reasonable target."

We also understood that some of these market housing units will help solve some of our problems in both public housing and GN staff housing, so saw them as being very important. When we looked at 3,000 and trying to break down how many would be in the various housing continuum categories we landed on a target of 400. I'll be honest with you, I believe that likely by 2030, there will be more than 400 market housing units that will be introduced into supply across Nunavut and that will be a positive thing because I think all forms of housing units that are introduced into supply over the next eight years are going to help us solve Nunavut's housing crisis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the longwinded explanation and from what I got from it; any number could have gone there, but that is the number that was chosen. 400 seemed like an alright number to get and I've got no problem with them putting a number. I was just curious on how it got there.

For the 900 affordable housing units, earlier I believe it was Mr. Devereaux that said anywhere from \$50,000 to \$150,000 affordable units, whether they are for sale or rent down. If we go in the middle at \$100,000 per unit, that is \$900 million just to put it in perspective. The 1,400 public units, that is a whole pile of money in there. I'm not trying to say this is undoable, but it's over \$2 billion for the construction of 3,000 new houses by 2030.

I'm just wondering about the funding source. I understand we only approve one year at a time and the minister is aware of that, and we have had exchanges where we just go one year at a time, but if I can get the minister to look into the crystal ball and just give us an idea of where this money is going to come from to build these 3,000 units. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of it is going to have to come from the federal government and us. Through the federal government, NTI is going to be playing a role in terms of building housing units. The federal government has given the Inuit organizations a lot of money to build houses. The private sector is looking at, when we talk about the cost, they probably have to put in about \$900 million in building those units that Mr. Savikataaq talked about. We are looking at \$2.5 billion, Mr. Chairman. That is a lot of money and that is where the money is going to have to come from.

We could look at it and sit there and say "Oh no, well it's not going to happen, so let's just go back to building 50 houses a year." I say no. I say let's move forward and we can do this. I think the appetite is there right now from the federal government to go out there and deal with the housing deficit across Nunavut and across many of the other aboriginal communities.

Housing was one of the biggest things, I think, when they created Nunavut. They stumbled in giving us money to build houses and staff houses and the infrastructure

deficit that we started with is a really big hill we have to climb. I think finally we have a plan to take a look at it and deal with it. It is not a cheap venture, and we will do what we can to tackle that. It seems like a big number upfront. It is a big number upfront, but we are at month two on this, or more like six weeks into this. I look forward to the challenge and I know we will be able to reach those numbers, but it is going to depend heavily on the federal government, and to some extent the private sector will have to step in and create some houses.

I'm hoping as we progress forward as Nunavummiut we will become less reliant on public housing and begin to build our own houses and the banks will step in at some point and help work with us on creating mortgages, Mr. Chairman. I will leave it at that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would really wish the minister well in attaining funding because we know we need that funding and I wish him well on getting the funds.

Going back to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the money that they will be receiving, I understand that as long as a house is built, it doesn't really matter who builds it; as long as it's available. I have heard that and I agree with that, but if Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated decides to build houses, are they counting towards the 3,000 houses that will be built between now and 2023? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, they are, Mr. Chairman. This 3,000 goal is all new housing across Nunavut, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami receives \$570 million towards infrastructure and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated would be entitled to a pretty good portion of that. Have there been talks with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on using that money to build houses within Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been invited to a meeting that Nunavut Tunngavik will have to talk about housing in Nunavut that they will be hosting. Before that, I haven't had a meeting with Nunavut Tunngavik to discuss this and that's all I could say on it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we desperately need houses. Nunavummiut are asking for houses and I know and I'm aware that this is new and there were a lot of unanswered questions here that "We're working on it, we're working towards it," and I sort of understand that, but we are here to approve a huge amount of money. Can I get assurance from the minister that the next time it comes before the committee, it will be a year into this agreement or this new venture, that we will have much better and clearer numbers, much better answers, and much clearer direction? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut 3000 has been heavily discussed. A lot of it is not actually in our ask, but I think we have been discussing a lot more than the funding that we are asking for, for this fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. I realize we brought this forward and therefore and because I mentioned it in my opening comments, it became part of this whole Committee of the Whole discussion, which I enjoyed, Mr. Chairman.

I think I have said on more than one occasion that we've got this project and as we just hit the ground running just a few weeks ago and I gave assurances that by next fall, when this is going through full swing and through a full cycle starting now, we will definitely have exact numbers; for example, instead of saying approximately 100 to 200 units, we're building 198 units. We will have those kinds of details and I really hope we will have concrete numbers by that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I didn't make myself clear. The minister sort of answered it, but I was just talking about this year's budget in terms of when asked how much a square foot it is, we have a rough idea of \$400 to \$500, but it would be a lot cheaper, how many units it will be, between 175 and 200, somewhere in there. If we're going to build five-plexes or 20-plexes, we're not sure; we're not there yet. Those are the stuff I was talking about.

Just for my closing comments, because I recognize the clock, I hope there are discussions with the modular home building factory that will be set up in Arviat because that will have high Inuit employment numbers and I want that project to succeed in my community of Arviat. I hope that there will be discussions between the Sakku Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make sure that this project succeeds. That's it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in fairness to the NHC, my colleague understands that until we nail down exactly where these buildings will be and the quotes are completely done from the NCC, we won't have the exact \$150 a square foot or \$600 a

square foot. Those are forthcoming, just like we didn't know until after the tender documents closed the last time that the proposals were coming in at \$1,000 a square foot.

This Assembly approved the uses about this time last year or two years ago and after the tender results came in, they were coming in a lot higher than we were anticipating. This is not something that we take lightly and so goes this time. We are looking at a ballpark figure and with the figure we're estimating we're going to get, this is what we're aiming for. I just assured my colleagues around the room that by next year we will have a lot better figures than we've ever had because we will have gone through the cycle once.

In terms of working with the Arviat company, they're like any other business, Mr. Chairman. They will have to be competitive. I really hope they're able to hire a lot of Inuit, but their houses will still have to be competitive. Like any other business out there, if their houses are too expensive, we will not be able to afford them. That's how it is and I know that the company that is working on them is going to ensure that their pencils are sharpened and that they are able to be competitive, and I wish them best of luck too. I really hope that they're competitive enough that we could buy houses from them for Arviat or if they ship them. I don't know how they're going to do it, but we are able to help as many businesses in Nunavut as long as they are competitive, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize the clock and report progress.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor and it's not debatable. All those in favour. The motion is carried. Thank you, minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses? I will rise to report progress.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Malliki.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Malliki: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 9 and 10 and would like to report that Bill 9 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Brewster. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 09 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022 – Third Reading**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at 6:15 in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Order of the Day for November 4:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 4
- Bill 8
- Bill 10

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, November 4, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 18:07

