

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Saturday, November 5, 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 Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): I say “good morning” to everyone watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

Speaker’s Statement

(interpretation ends) Before we start, I would like to say a couple of personal announcements for myself.

I understand that today is one of our colleagues’ birthday, our Premier of Nunavut. Happy birthday to you.

>>*Applause*

And my second announcement is more important...

>>*Laughter*

...because my wife, we are celebrating our 45th anniversary today.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) If she is watching the proceedings, (interpretation ends) I love you very much. (interpretation) I miss you a lot (interpretation ends) and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for looking after our kids and keeping me in line especially. She is the only person that, I believe, if it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t be sitting here at all. Happy anniversary to my honey.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: *Ullaakut*, Mr. Speaker, and happy birthday and happy anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to immediately proceed to Item 19 on the order paper. Are there any nays? There are none. Proceed to Item 19. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4, 8, and 10 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask that all members remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good morning, everyone. Good Saturday morning. I would like to welcome everyone to continue our deliberations of education, but just before I go on to my comments, I would like to recognize the Government House Leader, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Minister Craig Simailak will be absent from the House today due to illness, as well as the Hon. Minister John Main will be as well absent from the House for the remainder of the fall sitting as he is attending a federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Health meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 4, 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 continue with the review main capital estimates for the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to review as many departments as possible in this order before reporting progress: Finance, Economic Development and Transportation, Environment, Nunavut Arctic College, Family Services, Culture and Heritage, Justice,

Qulliq Energy Corporation, Office of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And I hope we get them all done. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Education – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Alright, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. For the record, Ms. Gross, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To my left I have Deputy Minister Rebecca Hainnu, and to my right I have Manger of Capital Planning, Barry Cornthwaite. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are here to deal with the Department of Education. Total Expenditures. \$47,730,000. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Ullaakkut*, everybody, especially to those political nerds who are watching us on a Saturday morning.

Welcome back, Minister Gross. I would like to start off by asking how many schools across Nunavut have issues with their foundations or require pile repairs to address shifting or sinking problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that question to Mr. Cornthwaite. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the only school that we are dealing with on foundation issues is Leo Ussak School in Rankin Inlet. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do the new builds take into account the warming climate, and if so, how is that being mitigated? Are there thermosiphons and things like that built into the plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just to keep the conversation going, since that is where we were at, Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically the consultants that we are dealing with, it depends on the site where the school may be built, whether it is on bedrock or whether it's on permafrost, and they address the foundation issues depending on the actual terrain the school is being built on. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. I appreciate that. Departmental documentation notes that ongoing lifecycle projects are prioritized based on health and safety concerns. A number of schools have been lost to fire in recent years. How many schools currently have sprinkler systems, and for those schools that don't have sprinklers, what fire suppression systems are in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* for the question. All of our schools have sprinkler systems. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of specific projects have already been identified under the ongoing lifecycle budget for 2023-24. What factors will impact whether specific projects can be completed within the fiscal year timeframe and within their allocated budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* for the question. We delegate that authority to Community and Government Services. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Ongoing concerns have been raised about the need for storage or garage facilities for school buses to keep them safe from vandalism and bad weather, as noted in my opening statements. What efforts has the department made to assist communities in meeting their bus storage needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The particular details of that question we can respond to in a more detailed manner through letter. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

>>*Laughter*

Ms. Brewster: Sometimes I forget my name too, early in the morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, is there any part of that question that you can answer today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to hand that question over to Mr. Cornthwaite. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: How we're try to address... . Sorry, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're trying to address this through a situation where all new contracts where we're going for school busing services, we try to ensure that the contractor has storage facilities for the buses.

So recently, Pangnirtung just got a new contract and their contract includes building a facility for the school buses in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that contract, does the funding come through the Department of Education for that building of a new structure and, if so, where is that listed in the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask Mr. Cornthwaite to answer that. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the building of the storage facilities for the buses, it's included in the actual busing contract itself, so it's funded through the contract remuneration. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay. I didn't see that anywhere in the information that was provided. Maybe I missed it. Is that a usual practice, to build capital into a project such as busing children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That is not capital funding; that's O&M funding. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I could just get clarification; O&M funding to build a garage? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That O&M funding is there for the busing contract itself. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still confused, but perhaps one of my colleagues can pick up on that one.

For those communities that contract their busing services from third-party providers, how does the department work with district education authorities to address community busing needs, taking into account the growth of student age populations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We can that information to you in writing. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are any communities are currently requesting new school buses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. A request for an additional bus has been received from the Sanikiluaq District Education Authority and the request is being reviewed. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to go back to that contract to build the garage as part of a busing contract. Are there any other communities that have similar contracts that will allow them or cause them to build a building to house the buses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer that to Mr. Cornthwaite to elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the communities of Naujaat and Taloyoak have contracts where the supplier of the services is providing a garage for the shortage of the bus through a contract that been let out in those two communities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to Ms. Brewster, if I can just get a clarification or an explanation from the minister on how a capital project is building a garage, is running through an O&M project as a busing contract? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that answer to Mr. Cornthwaite. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Cornthwaite,

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we are looking at busing services for any particular community, part of the requirements is to find acceptable storages for the buses. When there aren't storages available in the community, we look to the contractor themselves to find the facilities to store the buses to ensure that they are kept safe from vandalism or any harm.

So that's become part of the contract that they provide a garage to store a bus. Their buses are with a facility. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the explanation. Back to Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. Who will own these capital projects once they're done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The contractor owns the facilities once the contracts are expired, if they do. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: My apologies, I missed that response. Can you please repeat that, minister?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister stated that when the contract is done, the contractor will own the facilities. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's the budget set for these builds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The budgets for those particular contracts vary from community to community, depending on who the contract is through and if they are under the DEA or if they are with a private contractor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's early in the morning. I am trying to look for the amounts here for those buses. Perhaps the minister can tell us what those amounts are and which communities they are in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Can the member please articulate which community she is referring to? *Quana*. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think she wanted all communities, but Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the amount is \$280,000 and I'm just wondering which communities those are being allocated to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The \$280,000 is for bus purchases itself. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross, if you could just elaborate. I think the member wants to know which community. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That factor is for whatever community would like a bus, so that determination will come once everything is reviewed and once we receive requests. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at page 1 of 3 of the substantiation sheets for buses, and its \$280,000 listed for 2023-24 for purchase. However, under planning, design and construction there is no indication of any funds for building. I really don't understand how a capital project is being built into a busing project without laying out what those projects are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that answer to Mr. Cornthwaite. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as I stated earlier, when we have a requirement for new busing services in a community, we look at all the options we are able to find with regards to the storage of the bus. When there isn't actually infrastructure in the communities, we look towards our contractor to help us provide the secure services and the storage facility for the buses. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to Ms. Brewster, just for clarification, because it is getting kind of murky here, through the O&M contract, is there money provided for the contractor to build a garage? Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: In the particular community I referred... . Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman. Sorry.

In the earlier answer I indicated that Pangnirtung was the most recent contract where there wasn't any infrastructure in the community, and the contract that was let to the contractor included him building a storage facility for the buses in Pangnirtung that are owned by the government. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'll move on from that right now.

From time to time, students with mobility needs require specialized busing services and I'm wondering how many communities currently provide busing services and whether or not these specialized needs are being built into new and ongoing busing contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Cornthwaite to answer that. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically when the DEAs are asking for busing services, they indicate to us whether it is a requirement for special needs services in that community. If there is a requirement for a special needs service in that particular community, the specialty buses will be provided to ensure the student has access to the school. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the requirements for contractors to look out for the safety of students by providing seatbelts for those students or other restraints to ensure their safety? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I can just remind all of us, including myself, to slow down for the interpreters. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I think that is taken on an individual basis depending on the situation, and if there are requirements or needs, we always strive to support the students. We do purchase buses that are available for students with special needs, such as handicap buses.

I would like to circle back to the question previously, capital funding is used to purchase the buses themselves and operations and maintenance is for busing contracts for the bus services and sometimes rental of buses themselves.

We also look at community by community, and if there is a special need a specific type of bus, we will take those factors and try and work to purchase them for the communities that need them. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I talk fast because I see the clock running down and I want to get lots of questions in. Sorry, my apologies. Staying on the issue of safety, we know that often children can experience bullying and other things while being bused to and from school. I'm wondering if the new buses are equipped with cameras. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Some of our buses are equipped with cameras, but I can ask Mr. Cornthwaite to elaborate. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd also like to elaborate with regard to the bus safety that was asked. The situation with bus drivers is a little bit unique compared to other drivers of vehicles in communities. There is a special bus driver certification that has to be done so they're aware of health and safety issues of students and how to handle students on a bus situation. If there are times where there's bullying there are bus monitors put on those buses to ensure the students are kept in check and safe at all times. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Does every school bus in Nunavut have a safety monitor onboard for every trip? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Not every school bus has a safety monitor, but some do. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Is that normally built into the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is true that service is provided through the contract. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: What are the metrics that are used to put that into specific contracts? You said that some do have that in the contract and some don't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That request is put through the district education authorities for those contracts to go through. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those school buses that do have closed circuit cameras, what's being done to protect the privacy of the students or the riders on the bus? Who takes care of whatever video is created? How is it kept from the public eye, and are children and families aware that they are on camera? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I'd like Mr. Cornthwaite to elaborate.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any DEA that has identified the need for cameras or busing monitors have let the school DEAs let the parents and students know that they are monitored and they contacted themselves or the ones that install the cameras and take care of the maintenance of the footages. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the videos or audios be available through the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My time is running out and I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just follow up on one of the minister's responses to one of Ms. Brewster's questions.

On the allocation of buses to different communities, the minister stated that the decision is yet forthcoming on where buses would be allocated. I would just like to confirm; I know the Department of Education has typically done a very good job in keeping track of needs and condition ratings of vehicles and buildings in the past.

Again, I hate using the word "assume", but I'm going to assume that the department has a priority listing of requests that have been made from different communities; not only the communities that need buses, but the types of buses that are being requested. My question would be: where is that priority list and what are some of the top few communities that have requested buses recently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We have a Department of Education busing vehicle log and as of two days ago, we have a request from Sanikiluaq, as I stated earlier, and that is the only request we have so far. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question: if there is only one request, has there ever been an occurrence where the Department of Education and I should know this, but I didn't spend as much detail on this line item in capital carryovers in the past, but has the department ever lapsed money or carried over money in the busing budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, the department has never lapsed any funding for busing. We also look to the age of the buses. If they are 10 years or older, we will look to replace those buses and have new ones for the communities that have those buses that are aging. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm sure I will follow-up on Ms. Brewster's other lines of questioning during the O&M budget appearance on the garages and the capital infrastructure being built through O&M.

I would like to shift gears and go to the Maplewood Software program. I have had a few constituents raise this concern to me over the past year or so, and it doesn't seem at a first glance to be a major issue, but the grading ability of the Maplewood Program, at least I'm assuming it's the Maplewood Program... there again, I'm using the assume word... where there is concern from parents. I'll just give an example: if a student comes home with an A on their report card, that range, from what I understand, is from 80 or 81 percent up to 100 percent, where in previous reporting guidelines, there were A, A-, A+, where it gave the parents and the students and the teachers a more accurate ability to be able to gauge the success of that student.

I'm sure we can all appreciate there is a big different between an 81 percent and a 99 percent, especially when it comes to parents who reward their children for A's. This makes it a little bit more expensive to them, but at the same time there is a real concern. I did ask an educator just recently, and they were fairly concerned about it as well.

When you're looking at gauging student achievement and you come home with an A, or a B, or C; again, we'll use a C as an example, that could be 51 percent or probably close to 65 percent if I recall the ranges correctly, which is again, quite a significant difference of knowing whether your child needs further assistance or not, where a C- would give a really good idea. A C+ would alleviate some of that concern.

I would just like to get some information from the minister on why the grade reporting is like that and how can we go about remedying that so that the grades that are listed on these students' report cards more accurately reflect the amount of work and effort that they put into their scholastic studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Maplewood is not in the capital request, and we can send the particular details to his question through letter. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This budget is for capital. The Maplewood IT infrastructure is capital. The software was purchased under a capital appropriation. I would appreciate a response from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Just one second please. For Maplewood, there is an option in the new Edsembli system that allows teachers to enter the range of letters for the grading. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to Mr. Hickes, he was not concerned about the letter and what the plus or minus on the letter, can the minister elaborate whether that's in there then? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can do that and we can look into it in the future. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I just get a confirmation of the timeline of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We can look at that for the next academic year. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that update and I will follow that. My next question is: as long as it's the same program, but I'm not exactly sure how it works out, so I'm going to ask the minister to educate me, Mr. Chairman. When we look at student transcripts, there has been a lot of coverage recently on the inaccuracy of them.

Does that information that is used to produce the student transcripts come from the Maplewood system as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That information goes through Edsembli. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware of numerous occasions where transcripts that are being sent to post-secondary institutions has led to students not being approved for programs that they would have been, if the correct transcript was sent, and in some cases has put a roadblock in front of a student accessing post-secondary education, or at least their preferred course, subject matter. By the time the correct transcript gets sent in, the courses are full that they wanted to go into and I know of students that have gone even to their third and fourth choices, just because they do want to gain post-secondary education.

So, out of the Edsembli programming, Mr. Chairman, what assurances can the minister give us that those errors... I know you can't eliminate errors. There's a human component to it as well, but what assurances can the minister give Nunavummiut and these students that are seeking to advance their academics, some assurances that these errors are going to be reduced dramatically? Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. In January 2022 our department began transitioning to Edsembli from Maplewood as the platform used for the student information system. There was a data gap between January 3 and February 16, 2022, as we were initially unable to process transcripts. That's when the department transitioned from Maplewood to Edsembli and the issue was resolved. From February 16 to October 26, education staff received 762 transcript requests and issued 1,464 transcripts. Graduates may apply to more than one college or university and therefore we have at that time issued more than one transcript for the request. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just close off with a comment that I do hope that those are remedied sincerely, I really do, and I can speak from experience that I have seen students that are not in university or college right now because the transcripts weren't sent correctly or FANS delays. I know this isn't a FANS topic here today, but we need to take every measure possible to not put any hindrance in front of our students that are looking to achieve or to access post-secondary education or even just furthering education of specific courses, whether it be online or in person.

I strongly...I can't even say it any stronger than what I'm saying, Mr. Chairman. I strongly encourage the minister to continue to put pressure on her department. I have often heard the phrase that a minister's job is to give their staff the resources to do their job. I'm asking and begging the minister to make sure that her staff have the resources to do their job, whether that be physical resources, person years resources, whatever the case may be. There should never be a student with a roadblock in front of them by a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We're here to go over the Department of Education. Total Capital Expenditures. \$47,730,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page G-2. Department of Education. Total Capital Expenditures. \$47,730,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. In my closing comments, I would first of all like to acknowledge and say "happy birthday" to our Premier and to our Speaker and wish him and his wife a happy 45th anniversary.

I would also like to thank all of the department staff for all of the hard work that they do, whether it be in our department or in our schools. Everyone that's related to education, I thank them for all of the amazing work that they do to support our students and our communities and Nunavut as a whole.

Quana to everyone for their questions to the Department of Education and we're always happy to answer questions as they arise and come to our emails or through the phone.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will take a five-minute break and then the Department of Finance will be in front of us.

>>*Committee recessed at 10:43 and resumed at 10:50*

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Finance – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Malliki): I would like to call the committee back to order. We're going to review the Department of Finance. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Susan Nichols, Comptroller General for the Department of Finance, and to my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am here to discuss Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*. Through it, the Department of Finance is seeking \$17.36 million in 2023-24 to continue the Government's enterprise resource planning (ERP) project to replace the government's core financial and human resource software, each over 20 years old.

This will be the second year of the project. In total we have estimated it will cost about \$41.55 million between 2022 and 2025. Although early, as elected officials we can be comfortable the ERP project has started well.

While the Department of Finance is seeking this appropriation, the ERP will benefit and be used by all departments.

The request for proposals for this project closed in July. Our evaluation team shortlisted top vendors and recently invited them to demonstrate their products in Nunavut. We continue to actively work through the procurement process and remain on track to select our vendor later this fall. I look forward to providing you with details at the appropriate time.

Our team has also been busy with other work in support of the ERP.

- We have started to identify the process, design, data and functional needs that will become the backbone of the ERP's electronic workflows.
- We have started to anticipate and assess the privacy implications of the new ERP.
- We are actively involving leaders from other departments so that the ERP considers various perspectives.
- We are communicating the project widely within the government. We know the importance of supporting our employees through the changes ahead and are taking steps from the start to build awareness.

The GN has significant work ahead of us. Far more than a simple software upgrade, adopting an ERP will improve how the GN is able to operate and serve our public. We appreciate your support as we continue to move this project forward in 2023-24.

Thank you. My officials and I are available to answer your questions should you have any. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Sorry, I do, Mr. Chairman; just give me a moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed capital budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$17.36 million. On April 13, 2022 the department issued a request for proposals for its new Enterprise Resource Planning System. The department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that the new Enterprise Resource Planning System "will require additional and ongoing program funding" of approximately \$86.0 million over the next five fiscal years for such things as software licensing fees. It is unclear how much of this amount is estimated to be new funding.

The department's substantiation sheet for this project also indicates that it will replace the government's current finance and human resources systems. However, the extent to which public agencies and territorial corporations, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and Nunavut Arctic College, will utilize the proposed new system remains unclear.

Although the standing committee recognizes the importance of the government having functional accounting systems and financial applications, members continue to caution the department to be mindful of the importance of ensuring that the cost and complexity

of such systems and applications are appropriate to the government's size and human resource capacity. It is important that the department examine what lessons can be learned from the government's past experience in procuring other major systems and software, including the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Motor Vehicles Information System and the Department of Family Services' Case Management System. The federal experience with the Phoenix Pay System may also be instructive in this regard.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. I almost choked because I haven't spoken.

>>*Laughter*

Good morning. In the opening comments, this area, I think if you can rephrase, or as it states (interpretation ends) that this is the second year of the project, (interpretation) this first comments in your opening address.

(interpretation ends) In total we have estimated it will cost about \$41,550,000 between 2022 and 2025. Although early, as elected officials, we can be comfortable the ERP project has started well.

(interpretation) However, I want further clarification in your acknowledgement with this program that you think you're able to start off well. Can you elaborate a little further where you find or have acknowledged that or see that progress developing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time or moment, what we have seen when we put tenders out as government with different departments or when we request funding, sometimes we haven't received the full amount that we receive in view of what we want to get, and we want to say that this is what we want to introduce in terms of being careful of our financial control mechanisms, along with the staff hours that have to be monitored and effective time management, such as time off from work, sick days, or other means where employees collect hours.

These are largely gathered in our software management systems, and when we announced that the government wanted to introduce a better system, there were quite a few good manufacturers who offered their services. From that point onwards, we whittled it down to see which system would best service our needs. As an example, we compared

each system to see their defences against malware based on what we experienced, Mr. Chairman.

I can say we have made much progress and did not go beyond the requested amount of funds. We are closing in on who will be issued the contract, and which company we will work with. As a matter of fact, as I speak, we are in negotiations with a company we feel most comfortable with to see how we can best approach this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, in looking at these proposed budget funds, it is hard to see if we can pass it without further questions, but that is our future decision at the end of this process, as that is a part of our duties.

Due to that process, I wanted to use up all of my questions to understand how the operational issues compare to the funding requests and whether they are based on solid foundations, as the development of safer systems is quite an important task within your mandated operations. For these reasons, I wanted to raise questions on the details when you were speaking to that matter, and I don't have a question so this is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. (interpretation ends) I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page C-3. Centrally Administered Funds. \$20,163,000. Any questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'll admit I am not the best in reading financial stuff here, but I have a question on the overall cost of the project.

In this budget, a little bit over \$17 million is requested, and then if we go to the business plan for year 2024, the way I am looking at it, another \$16.9 million; 2025, \$17.1 million; 2026, \$17.3 million; 2027, \$58.8 million, and it comes out to a little over \$100 million. Am I mistaken that \$100 million will be spent on this system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And more. The \$17 million each year that my colleague is going on about are the cost of the programming, the licensing fees and those, so the ongoing costs are those. So that's the cost of operating a system like this, is all the licencing and fees associated with such a system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for the explanation. Just for a comparison, I know we are using a very old outdated system. I agree we should go

to a new system, but just for comparison; what's the licensing fee or the operational cost of the current system that we are using? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current system we are operating now is costing us in the neighbourhood of \$300 thousand dollars in licensing and annual fees associated with that system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get a brief or an explanation just so we'll understand about why the licensing is going from \$300,000 to \$17 million per year? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gladly. The current system we have is very human oriented; data entry clerk oriented, and right now, I'll use for an example, when an employee wants to take leave, the employee goes through a couple of data entry clerks and gets the even amount of credits they have, the individual applies for it, goes to their supervisor, their supervisor goes to their supervisor, their leave credits are manually checked to ensure that they are at the right amount, and then the paper chases back to itself. They go through a few staff to find out that information.

This new system, the supervisor just needs to pull out the individuals name and all the information is already in there; how many leave credits they have and what other people's leaves are, and it's more user friendly. It involves a lot less data entry clerks. It's just one example of many there is, and maybe through you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chown could elaborate further on the benefits of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is correct. With the systems we currently have, their functionality is very basic. We have our payroll system, ePersonality, and FreeBalance, our financial system; and they do a lot of the high level transactions within our government, but many of the components of those processes are manual and done by people.

The number of people who are actually licensed to use those systems is quite limited, and many of the other steps within the process and different approvals all happen on paper. With the new ERP system, virtually every employee in the government will have some level of access to this system depending on the different modules. There will be licensing for virtually everybody in the government, whereas it's much lower now so, as we add things like leave and attendance, which is all done manually now, every employee has leave and attendance, so every employee will access that system.

As the minister noted, right now that's a very manual and paper process. Moving this to an electronic approach and electronic approvals will result in significant time savings to the government. As we expand out to the different modules, the human resource modules, the training and development modules of this system, there will be more and more licensing fees, but also more and more time savings within the government. Also, because this system is much more robust than our other systems, there will be higher maintenance and servicing costs associated with it.

So those licenses and maintenance and services costs are all part of why it's so much more expensive, but we do believe that the savings over time will certainly result in a good return for the government. I think if I was to use an analogy; right now we've got a giant pile of gravel sitting over here, and we're trying to move it over here with a wheel barrow, we'll be switching from using a wheel barrow to be using a giant mining dump truck. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In his analogy, I hope he'll have a loader loading the dump truck with gravel because dump truck does not load itself.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I agree that we have an old system, that we need a new system, and the minister and his officials said the old system is very labour intensive, with a lot of data entry with less education requirements to become a data enterer than someone who's high up in the IT scale. This new system will have less labour. Are there going to be layoffs of all these data entry clerks and people up in the lower level that are doing all this manual intense stuff in the old system when the new system is being used where it is more automated? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there will be no layoffs or terminations. There is plenty of work for people to do that. There will be opportunities for people to actually move into different areas. There will be no layoffs with this system, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment. I'm glad to hear that there will be no layoffs, and I agree that we need a new system that is more accurate, quicker and more up to date. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next name on my list is Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I go to my line of questioning, I would just like to get a confirmation from the minister and his officials. So if I look at the capital estimates on page C-2, it's got the computer hardware that we are here to talk about; the \$17,363,000. It has tangible assets of \$2.3 million, which is under the Nunavut Arctic College, which is under M-1 in the capital estimates book as an information item, then the \$500,000 under grants and contributions to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. So the Nunavut Arctic College and Qulliq Energy Corporation... I know the Arctic College is going to be appearing before this committee meeting to talk about the \$2.3 million. I'm just asking first, for confirmation. Is Qulliq Energy Corporation going to be appearing before the committee to defend the \$500,000? Or, is that through the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe we will be defending QEC's budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: So I would just like to get confirmation from the minister that we are here today to approve the \$17,363,000 and that that portion of the page of C-2, that we will have to confirm the other amounts after the other appearances, and the minister will have to come back to confirm page C-2 as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could have Mr. Chown clarify that, Mr. Chairman, through you.

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

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My recollection was that in the past, QEC has spoken to the \$500,000 on their end and would defend that page on their own. We certainly understand what the purpose of the grant is for, but we don't have any detailed materials specific to the exact use beyond the high level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Chown and the minister for confirming that. I just want to clarify for the committee that we will be approving today, if the approval is processed with and agreed to by the committee, the \$17,363,000 and that in subsequent appearance by Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College we'll be approving those budgets and then we'll have to come back to approve page C-2.

So from my understanding Mr. Chairman, and you'll have to confirm, or through the Clerk's office, or through the Minister of Finance, that we will be approving just a portion of C-3 today. Can I get that confirmation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kusugak.

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

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. I do apologize. It seems like a trivial thing, but we are here to approve... Even according to the minister's opening comments, he is requesting \$17,363,000. Yet on page C-2 on the capital estimates, it is \$20,163,000. So there is a discrepancy within the numbers which causes a bit of confusion. So I just wanted that clarified to the committee, that we will be potentially approving the \$17,363,000 today, and we will have to approve the balance at subsequent appearances from the other agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So with that I will go to my line of questioning. One question that arose during Mr. Savikataaq's line of questioning; with the amount of labour that is involved within in the current system, and within the current system, people under casual staffing action still have to fill in their timesheet everyday of how many hours that they've worked, how many hours missed or any leave that is taken, then it is submitted to a supervisor, and it goes through a whole gamut of people for the approval process for people in casual staffing actions to get paid. Will this new system alleviate that process as well too and, if so, if the minister can kind of briefly layout how we will be able to make sure our that our part-time or casual employees are getting paid on time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we work through this program, and as the ERP program gets integrated into our system, there will be a slight learning curve and retooling, if I can use the term loosely, of the current casual staff and staff that are working on these many different facets as we do right now.

As it becomes more complete and the program is running fully by that time, many of the staff that are currently doing all these data entries will be doing different kinds of work within the organization within the government and they will be cross training and training on how that will move forward.

Mr. Chairman, it'll really speed up a lot of the processes we do have, and one of the things I believe this will alleviate is often times we have casual or temporary staff that get dropped through some of the steps in getting paid on time. So hopefully the tracking system associated with the ERP will fill those gaps or stop the drop offs so that the system will be able to track them in. Sometimes you have a casual employee who comes in, an employee that they reports to will fill out the leave form, send it to their supervisor,

and somewhere between supervisor one and supervisor three, the form may literally be lost in transition or under another document and gets misfiled, and not until three or four days after payroll is done, the particular individual will say "I haven't been paid yet." Then they find out that through no fault of their own, and sometimes through no fault of the supervisor, the paper chase gets lost.

So with this new system, the way the documents and information will be entered into the system immediately, there is a lot less risk of individual's not being paid because someone didn't read the paper coming off the fax machine, for an example. So that should get rid of a lot of the paper-chase and hardworking casuals not getting paid on time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to go the substantiation sheet on page 3 of 5 at the very top, where it goes into the RFP submissions due to the Government of Nunavut. Sorry, request for proposal submissions. In the schedule, in the current stage that we are right now; fall of 2022 and winter of 2023, titled "Discovery Phase", it talks that the vendor will spend several months working with Government of Nunavut departments to understand the working processes. Can I get an update on the status of that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Yes, we can. For the latest update, maybe if I can have Mr. Chown elaborate on exactly where we are at these stages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The discovery phase itself, well, the bulk of the work on that phase will happen once we have actually awarded a vendor. However, in preparation for that discovery phase, our government has already started going through our current processes, documenting and understanding those processes, so that once we have awarded to a specific vendor, we will be able to work with those processes and their system to understand how we integrate the two of those.

One key aspect of our approach on this project that we hope will make it successful and avoid some of the pitfalls of other systems is that we want to try to minimize the customization of the system. We want to try to work with the system as the vendors developed it and so part of what we will be doing is looking at our current processes and how we can modify those to fit into the system, rather than what often happens, which is

modifying the system to fit into our processes. We do believe that that will be a key success factor in our approach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize. From our standing committee appearance, I thought the tendering process was almost complete then. I guess maybe my next question for you would be to give me an update on the timeline for the tender to be approved and awarded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the process, we are currently working on the possible vendor and trying to nail down the final details of our agreement and it should be done before the end of this calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That already puts us a little bit behind in the department's estimated timeline that the contractor would be selected in the finalized contract in the summer to fall. We're in the fall, towards the later part of fall now, so we're not too far behind, but I think that that should be okay.

My next question is the deputy minister and his response spoke to some of the pitfalls of the other software that has been purchased or utilized over the years, and in my opening comments I spoke of the motor vehicle system, which cost the Government of Nunavut, I believe, if I recall correctly, over \$7 million more than the budgeted amount when it was being looked at. The case management system for family services at over \$2 million invested into it before it was determined that it wasn't usable or appropriate for the Department of Family Services and then it had to go into a new direction.

On the scale of this project to those projects, this is an elephant in the room compared to the mouse. If there are any cost overages or any time frame where this program could be determined not appropriate and mothballed, it is a lot more significant than a few million dollars here and there. I would like to get the minister's position on his comfort level that the budgeting process and the forecasting budget for this software is appropriate and we're not going to be seeing either supplementary appropriations or increased budget requests over and above the anticipated schedule that we have been provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of the things that we have been working hard on is to ensure that this program will run, and I think the steps that we have taken in getting this asset is we have taken all those extra steps. We've had the interested vendors come up here and show us what their items look like and how they

will operate and compare them with our needs. I think we have taken a lot of extra steps that may not necessarily have been taken in some of the previous computer software programs that my colleague is referring to. I think we have learned some lessons in that.

I know our department has been working very closely with other departments as this item is the elephant in the room and it will branch off to many other departments. We have been working closely with those departments to ensure that this will work and that the issues we have and what we need it for will actually work with what we are in line to purchase. We are giving it real due diligence and working hard to ensure that we will not need to come back for extra funding and have an “oops” moment. We will do our best to ensure that that does not happen, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just close off with a comment. I, for one, very much appreciate this item coming forward to the Assembly for approval. I know the archaic system that our staff and civil service has been running under for a couple of decades now, where it was thought to have... I think the opportunity for advancing a project like this probably should have happened years ago, but due to competing interests, obviously, and maybe a lot of people don't fully comprehend the value of this type of software and this type of tool.

It isn't some willy-nilly request that the Department of Finance is doing. I think there is a lot of value to this. It is expensive. There are a lot of other ways that this money could have been utilized to benefit Nunavummiut, but I think that in the long term, a project like this is going to benefit Nunavummiut more than probably we can appreciate today. I'll just leave that as a comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Kusugak, do you have... ?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman, only to say I agree. It is a very costly venture, but at the end of the day, I really do believe that it is something well worth investing in and we will see the fruit from it in the years to come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names for questions. Mr. Hickes.

Committee Motion 002 – 6(2): Motion to Defer Finance until the Appearance of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion to defer the Department of Finance until we can have the subsequent appearances on page C-2, the \$2.3 million through Nunavut Arctic College and the \$500,000 through the Qulliq Energy Corporation. On that basis, I would like to move a motion to defer the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes, can you provide a copy of the motion to defer?

Mr. Hickes: We will have to take a two-minute break for me to provide that to the committee chair. Thank you.

Chairman: Okay. We will have a two-minute break. We will take a short break.

>>Committee recessed at 11:28 and resumed at 11:44

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion has been deferred. Can you escort, Sergeant... ? Break for what? Okay.

>>Committee recessed at 11:45 and resumed at 11:46

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. There is a motion to defer the Department of Finance until the motion of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College appears. Does anybody want to speak to the motion?

An Hon. Member: Question.

Chairman: Questions? All those in favour. Motion carried. At this time we're going to take a lunch break. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

The committee meeting will start at 1:30.

>>Committee recessed at 11:48 and resumed at 13:29

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are now looking at Economic Development and Transportation. I would like to ask the minister: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister David Kunuk and to my left is John Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister.

Can I proceed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to be here to present the 2023-24 capital budget and 2023-24 to 2027-28 capital plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

For 2023-24, the proposed budget is \$16,104,000, an increase of \$1,149,000 or, in financial terms, 7.7 percent more than the budget for 2022-23.

(interpretation ends) While the department has not identified any new projects for this fiscal year, the year-over-year change is the result of scheduled work on existing projects; in particular the Qikiqtarjuaq Port Project, which is advancing from planning into the design phase. Additionally, we are in the planning phase to build mobile airport equipment shelters in Arviat, Pond Inlet, Grise Fiord, Kugaaruk, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugluktuk, and we hope to have design briefs for these projects in the coming months.

However, we continue to face significant challenges associated with tendering our capital projects, with the department being unable to successfully close tenders for air terminal building renewal projects in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, and Kimmirut due to rising costs and bids coming in well over approved budgets.

The price increases for capital projects are a result of global market forces and are not in the government's control. However, the Government of Nunavut needs to find a way to move critical projects forward in this new economic reality. Whereas the federal government typically provides 75 percent of the total funding needed for most Economic Development and Transportation capital projects, the higher than projected bids on our tenders mean that the agreed-upon federal contributions will cover a smaller portion of the total funds needed.

We continue to seek additional federal funding to cover the full 75 percent of newly assessed project costs. However, since our appearance before the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development in September, we have made changes in the out-years of the capital plan to enable us to complete these projects independent of additional federal funding if necessary.

While no changes are proposed for the 2022-23 fiscal year, without additional funding in 2023-24 and 2024-25, necessary air terminal improvements in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, and Kimmirut cannot be completed. We believe that these projects are critical community infrastructure, and it is in the best interests of Nunavummiut and our communities to move forward with them while the federal funding is still available.

(interpretation) That concludes my opening comments. I am happy to answer any questions the members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. (interpretation ends) Does the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$16,104,000. This represents an increase of approximately 7.7 percent from its 2022-23 capital budget.

In recent years a number of important transportation infrastructure projects have received funding under the federal National Trade Corridors Fund, including renovation and expansion of the Rankin Inlet Airport Terminal Building and the planned construction of new airport terminal buildings in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, and Whale Cove. Members are concerned that progress on constructing new airport terminal buildings in the five smaller communities has been significantly delayed as a consequence of tender cancellations related to inflation and supply chain issues. Members note that the Rankin Inlet airport terminal project expansion project has received additional funding to proceed, despite facing similar cost pressures. It is not clear how the department determines which tenders will be cancelled and which will not.

On August 9, 2021 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$30.0 million in funding for a project to construct "new shelters to house heavy equipment essential for air operations, and to store cargo in the communities of Arviat, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet and Grise Fiord." The announcement indicated that the project "involves the construction of seven shelters to be leased to private sector carriers and operators in these communities." Members look forward to further clarification on the proposed leasing agreements.

On October 18, 2019 the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposals for a "Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study." Funding for this important work was provided through the federal Oceans Protection Plan. Information published by the government indicates that Worley Canada Services was the successful proponent. Members continue to look forward to the results of this study being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On August 4, 2021 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$40.0 in funding towards the construction of a new deepwater port in Qikiqtarjuaq. This project has the potential to support Nunavut's fishing sector. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this major project.

On August 13, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund for a number of projects, including the study and design of an intercommunity all-season road in the Kivalliq and installation of passenger boarding ramps at seven airports. In June 2022 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1.5 million in capital carryover funding for the Kivalliq Trade Corridor Study. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important initiative.

The spring 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament included a chapter titled Civil Aviation Infrastructure in the North. One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the federal Department of Transport should "lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure. The strategy should clearly outline the role that Transport Canada will play in addressing the infrastructure needs of remote northern airports." The federal government's response to this recommendation was that Transport Canada will "work with territorial governments and other federal government departments and stakeholders to identify shared priorities for northern transportation infrastructure, including, but not limited to, northern airports." Members continue to encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning its work with Transport Canada in this area.

In June 2019 the Legislative Assembly approved a \$512,000 capital carryover for the Pangnirtung Airport Relocation Project. Given the lack of federal funding for this initiative, members continue to encourage the minister to clarify the government's plans with respect to this project. During the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates, members were informed that the department would be updating its *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*. Members continue to look forward to the updated report being tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicated that one of its ongoing priorities was to "...complete planning work for remediation and removal of decommissioned airport terminal buildings" in a number of communities. This work has not yet been completed in Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, or Resolute Bay. Recognizing that there may be a lack of jurisdictional clarity with respect to responsibility for certain facilities, members continue to encourage the minister to publicly clarify the department's schedule for the decommissioning of the buildings that have not yet been remediated and removed.

In August 2015 the department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy was revised. The policy's "sunset date" was March 31, 2020. Schedule A of the policy concerns departmental support for "access roads and community marine infrastructure." Funding for projects under Schedule A is provided from the department's operations and maintenance budget. Schedule B details departmental support for "small craft harbour capital contributions," which are funded under the department's capital budget. The 2019-2020 annual report on the administration of the program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 6, 2022. However, the 2020-21 and 2021-22 annual reports have not yet been tabled. Members look forward to the ongoing and timely tabling of departmental annual reports on the administration of this important program, as well as

the timely release of the revised or renewed Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy.

The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates also include funding for Economic Development Facilities Lifecycle improvements. Members look forward to ongoing updates on work undertaken through this funding.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I don't see anyone. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of departmental estimates starting on page K-3. Transportation. \$15,354,000. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For Chesterfield Inlet's airport terminal building, for the following year, will the funds be added in the next budget? I would like a clarification if that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these initial projects deferred are set to proceed again for these communities listed here, with three in the Kivalliq region, one in the Kitikmeot as well as one in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I would like further clarification whether these projects will commence separately or will the three communities listed in the region have these projects begin together, or will they be sequential? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans will be updated by our officials, and how the timing works out is something we need to clarify, whether these three projects will commence together or if each project will be planned out individually, so we are still researching the best option for the project so I cannot provide concrete details at this time as to how this will be scheduled.

Our planning group, who works out this level of detail will provide that once the funding is approved here. This is to restart these stalled projects, and once it is clear, then we will submit those timelines to the members, and especially to the MLAs whose riding is set to receive the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister David Akeeagok. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I submitted some photographs earlier this week showing the state of the air terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet, and it is quite dilapidated and old, requiring extensive renovations. This is just a comment. I will move to the next item.

As well, in the same community of Chesterfield Inlet, their breakwater is becoming more dangerous, as it has immense boulders lining the breakwater, and many community-bound traffic passes through in the summertime. The community has expressed its concerns about the breakwater and feels that it is unsafe.

They worry about a possible accident, especially when smaller boats could be crushed by falling rocks. I wonder if his department has taken these local concerns into consideration and if there will be repairs to ensure the safety of marine travellers passing through? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member who submitted photographs for the record into this House and showing the debilitated state of the infrastructure and I will commit to reviewing those pictures further to determine what repairs can be undertaken to fix it.

With respect to the comments on the breakwater in Chesterfield Inlet, there are two possible scenarios I can answer with on that issue. Within our budget proposal, under the English title “Community Transportation Initiative Program” there are funds specific for repair work on existing community infrastructure that hamlets can submit proposals to.

Up to today, we haven’t seen any local proposals to repair this facility yet, and further, on a larger scale, within the opening comments the chairman made, he referenced this program titled in English “Marine Scoping Project”, and once this is completed, if we need any upgrades or anything else, it will be included in our budget and I wanted to respond to that in two ways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question about the minister’s opening comments. On the first page, in the second last paragraph, it says “...we continue to face significant challenges associated with tendering our capital projects, with the Department being unable to successfully close tenders for air terminal building renewal projects in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, and Kimmirut due to rising costs and bids coming in well over approved budgets.”

I’ll first ask: how much carryover in total for these projects does the department have right now? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): At this time, broken down, the carryovers are: Chesterfield Inlet, \$1,679,000; Naujaat, \$1,679,000; Kugluktuk, \$1,050,000; Kimmirut, \$305,000; and Whale Cove, \$679,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response, but it brings up another question. Why is the carryover different for Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet and Naujaat when they are having the common design? I understand the difference in the foundations and stuff, but the carryover difference between Whale Cove and the other terminals is substantial; it's one third. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is with how it was staged in the budgets. The first two with the bigger amounts were the first two that we wanted to build, and then following, and that is where the difference in terms of the capital carryover is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't the minister state on several occasions that those three terminals; Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove went on one tender because they were a common design? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we started this project they were in stages. By the time this was the second tender, we put those three tenders together because we had sufficient funds within these budgets to try and see if we can save money by putting three buildings in one region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Staying on the same topic there, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has gone to sole-sourcing a good number of their units to get a better price. Is the department considering sole-sourcing these projects to maybe get a better price? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is one of the various options that we are going to have to look at. Right now we are focusing on getting this budget and then moving on in terms of whether we are going to tender.

I think the decision of whether to do a sole-source, or a tender, or other forms that that discussion needs to take place at the departmental-level between our partners from other departments. That is one that I will thank the members for giving us this option to consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought it up is: what is the government's view since they are funding 75 percent of the project, as to sole-sourcing federal funds? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the member for refreshing my mind because with all the federal funding that we got, they are required to do an open tender and I thank the member for refreshing my mind on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Project. We wouldn't want these projects to stop again because they broke the law...

>>*Laughter*

...so, let's refresh the minister. Going on, still in his opening comments here on the last page, it says "We continue to seek additional federal funding to cover the full 75 percent of newly assessed project costs." It goes on and on and on. I'll go to the last part here. "We have made changes in the out-years of the capital plan to enable us to complete these projects independent of additional federal funding if necessary." Can the minister elaborate on what those projects are?

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Chairman, through you, could I ask the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Hawkins to respond to that? Thank you.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are all the five ATB projects that need extra funding in the out-years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification; you've got extra funding from within, so these five ATB buildings in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale

Cove, Kugluktuk, and Kimmirut will be going to tender in this budget year that we are discussing. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going to another one of the projects, the Qikiqtarjuaq port; what is the duration of the operation of that port when it is operational? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our substantiation sheets it is projected that it would be completed in 2026-27. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: I'm sorry I didn't make myself clear, I guess. Is it operating from July to December, or what is the operational time in a year? How many months a year will that port be operational, because we know that up north that when the ice comes, things freeze. So how long will this port be operational per year? How much time? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is part of the planning and design in terms of where it is going to be located and we are going to need to do some work in terms of how late and how long the ice gets formed in that area. So I don't want to speculate in terms of when it opens and when it closes, but I do know that it will have times where it is frozen in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification; it says "on location." I'm not from Qikiqtarjuaq, so I can't speak on behalf of them, but does it freeze quicker in one part of the east end of town and doesn't freeze as quickly on the west end of town? Just for clarification on how location will determine how long it operates. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. We are brand at deep sea ports, so it's kind of difficult in terms of exactly where it is going to be located, but one of the things as a part of our studies and the design is that we have to look at the wind, the current, the tides and

the ice studies as a part of this as this project proceeds. I do know in all of the eastern communities, some areas freeze faster. If you're in a little bay, it tends to freeze faster, but if you're out in the open, then it stays open longer. So those are the very things that are part of the planning and design that if we get approval from this House, we will proceed to move on doing those things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the operation duration of the port here in Iqaluit? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is from July to November. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. It's nice to get a precise timeline. I wish I could have gotten that for the other port too, but I will go on. I'll go to something that affects my community. I've talked to the minister a lot about this. Where are the Arviat 70-10 bollards they have been promised for there? I think this is the third year now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That one, from what I understand is that PPD has delayed it for another year. So in 2023 that bollard should be going there, provided the work that is needed to be done is done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next name on my list is: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the Chairman for a little bit of indulgence here. The minister will understand where I'm going with this a little bit later. I would like to ask the minister for an update on the Nanisivik Fuel Re-Supply Station. I know it's a federally government funded project, but there are Nunavummiut who are missing out on employment opportunities. This project was announced back in in 2007. It was supposed to be open in 2013, then 2018, and then it was supposed to be opened this year. I think this gives the federal government a little bit of the challenges of construction projects in the Arctic.

I would like to ask the minister for an update on what level of engagement his department has had with federal officials this facility, especially considering the scale-back project that they have announced on a number of attributes of the facility that have been eliminated from the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is not a whole lot of engagement that we have with the federal government as it is a strictly federal project, but from our department, our involvement is to maintain the road that goes from Arctic Bay to Nanisivik for the staff that are required to go there as a part of this.

I do know, having discussions, as that is my riding, I have had discussions as an MLA, in terms of what those are, but it's all at the federal level. I share your concern in terms of the delays and delays because that is a significant national interest that should be operational now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the factors that seem to be getting the bulk of the blame from the delays in that project is not just the cost but the political will. Has the minister had any discussions with the minister for defence or fisheries and oceans on the necessity of moving this project forward to make sure that the jobs that would be available during the construction phase and the four to six jobs that are anticipated for shipping season, I believe it's from July to November or something like that, I can't recall the exact dates, but there are a few jobs available for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not had any meetings with Minister of National Defence, and with the meetings I had with the Minister for Fisheries and Oceans, I had flagged that with her about this and that that's a very important infrastructure that's being built in Nunavut and that they should be utilizing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. I'll let that topic go for now, Mr. Chairman, and hopefully that will give the minister a little bit of impetus to be able to lobby his federal counterparts to continue work on that project.

I would like to go to the minister's opening comments at the very, very last where it talks about no changes proposed and the different air terminal improvements. At the very last sentence, it says that it is in the best interest of Nunavummiut and our communities to move forward with them while federal funding is still available. Is there a cap or a timeline that this federal funding may not be available to the Government of Nunavut to utilize? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask that Mr. Hawkins respond to that question? Thank you.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of those projects are funded under the National Trade Corridors Fund and the program parameters end in 2027, I believe. While we have had pretty good fortune in extending the programs, they are usually pretty understanding of it, especially when there are challenges; there is an end date on those programs right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along those same lines, when I look at the costing of the Rankin Inlet facility, which was originally a 75-25 split between the federal government and the Government of Nunavut, there was an additional appropriation bringing that cost share down to close to 50-50. I believe it's 46 and a quarter percent under the responsibility of this House's appropriations.

What worries me is that, as we have seen two failed tenders now for these airside terminal buildings in those communities, it just continues to put more and more pressure on us as legislators to continue to increase budgets for... . We know how important these projects are. There's no one in this room that would argue the point and the necessity of having those facilities come online, but I think it's a very important message to continue in the planning process and in the budget process on making sure that the appropriate amounts are appropriated appropriately to these projects.

When I look at a number of different projects, I'm just going through the substantiation sheets that were provided to us, when I look at, just for an example, the substantiation sheet for the Qikiqtarjuaq marine infrastructure, there is a class of cost estimate of blank. To date, cost estimates have not been completed. I understand it's still doing the baseline studies over another four, five, or six months before those are done, but even just to have even a class "X," like you've got very detailed requests in this year and future years for specific amounts, but there's nothing leading us to have much confidence in the quotes or the cost estimates. I would like to get the minister's perspective on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for questioning this and expressing his concerns in terms of the budgets, especially for the Transport Canada share that needs to be 75 percent. We're in discussions with Transport Canada on Rankin Inlet in order to try to get more funding within that envelope and so our share will grow a bit more for that.

The transport minister was just appearing before the senators last week. He did indicate that he is aware of our costs and pricing going really high and that he encouraged us to put in an application. We are working towards those five and also for the Rankin Inlet. For the Qikiqtarjuaq port of not having an actual class, that's one that we're reviewing into this deep sea port phase and that we're going to rely on the expertise when it comes to the planning and design and those studies that are being done in terms of that for us to determine what the class will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly what concerns me and I'm sure all of my colleagues in this House when we've got already an extraordinary amount of tenders that have been cancelled in the last year or two years, not just in large construction but housing across the board, it seems like. There seems to be a lot of tenders cancelled and monies carried over from year to year. It puts a lot of strain on us and the fiscal ability to be able to complete some of these projects. I think I have made my concerns quite clear there.

I do have another question in turn with the Rankin Inlet facility. In the substantiation sheet on page 7 of 8 it talks about schedule risks and most of them are very basic; weather strikes, site conditions, and material shipping delays. There was one part in there that kind of caught me off guard that I don't recall seeing before; maybe I just missed it, but also by unrealistic schedules and project deadlines. What does the department mean by setting unrealistic schedule and project deadlines if we're approving monies on a fiscal basis? That is concerning to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Rankin Inlet project is quite complex. It's being built in part and then another piece taken down, and then another part being built on the replacement on the footprint of the part that's being taken down. There are a lot of unforeseen things that can happen in a project like that and we just include it in there as a potential risk and identified as such. When you have proper engineering and the proper construction and good methodology, the risk diminishes, but it was certainly a risk; it is a risk at the onset of the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. It makes it a lot clearer for me. I appreciate that information.

I would like to jump over to...don't worry; I will get to the Iqaluit airport at some point. In the substantiation sheet for other small capital lifecycle, the \$1.5 million one, on page 2 in the cost it says, "Previous purchase prices are used as estimates for similar type of equipment and the final costs are identified when the purchase orders are complete through CGS procurement." I do understand that, but when you're looking at the list of

equipment that you're intending to purchase over the next fiscal year, when we look at previous purchase prices, all those figures seem to have gone out the window the last year or two. Does the minister intend to be able to complete all the intended work under this budget that's being appropriated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's our intention to try to get as much as we can for what we're aiming for, but with small capital, that's one of the areas that tough decisions get done at the operational level when prices go beyond. For the purpose of this budget request, that's the budget that we feel that's sufficient to run our operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope the minister is successful in there because the project risks are a lot scarier than late construction times of safety being jeopardized, potentially leading to death or injury, so that's a very substantial component of your responsibility.

I would like to go to the construction phase of the mobile equipment shelters. Again, it does not have any estimate classes, stating that there's some confidence within the department that these are fairly utilitarian structures and the cost breakdown is not expected to deviate from comparable facilities. Again, I think that a lot of those previous experiences have pretty much have gone out the window over the last couple of years. It does seem like a fairly generous budget for such a basic facility of \$5.5 million per building being budgeted, and it is hoped that the risk of exceeding the project budget is small.

With the circumstances that have been unfolding over the procurement process over the last year, does the minister still feel comfortable that the budget for these projects, I believe it's seven different communities are still going to be able to move ahead, with the design scheduled to be completed this fiscal year and construction starting next? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the plan is to try to get those within the budget and the timeline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I'll get to the Iqaluit airport. Mr. Chairman, when we look at...and I totally understand the way the agreement was set up, that lifecycle replacements were agreed to at the signing of this project and scheduled though a 30-year term. It states in the business case summary that the Government of Nunavut,

I'm on page 2 of 4 just for the minister and his officials, that the Government of Nunavut is obligated to include the rehab annual service payment as part of the monthly available payment to the contractor. The question I have there, and maybe it was covered at standing committee, but in the schedule, the list of and forecasted timeline, it just says various.

I'm sure there is a schedule of replacements or lifecycle renovations that are anticipated in this project. It was opened in 2017 and now we're five years in and it seems like a very new building, but the usage of things has a detriment on different parts of the facility. I'm just wondering the scope of work that is entailed for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can just give me a moment, I'll see what I can find here. It changes every year so.

I'm afraid I don't have that information in my binder, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize; we don't have that information, but I'll commit to making sure that that information is shared to the member through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister's crystal ball is working perfectly; I was just about to request that.

Just one final question, through the five years of experience of having the Iqaluit airport under service, has there been any more thought put into the jetwalk situation that was brought up during the planning phase or during the construction phase? I know it was framed in to allow it at the time and at the time I pushed very hard to have jetwalks incorporated into the design and into the construction phase. Has there been any more thought put into incorporating at least one jetwalk to alleviate especially some of the mobility issues that we've got?

I know quite a few of the planes coming up are still combo planes where that wouldn't even be a factor, but there are some full-configuration passenger planes coming up and it would, especially in the wintertime, be a lot more comfortable for people walking across that apron at minus 40 degrees and 40 kilometres an hour winds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't put a whole lot of thought for the jetwalk at this time. What Canadian North has done is got the wheelchair access to the planes, to the jets especially, and that has been a huge improvement, especially for those that require wheelchairs. That jetwalk still is in, as the member mentioned that it's part of the design, and if and when we get to that, I think that's a good part of that airport being designed that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister, David and John, your officials.

The 2017 report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament concerning the issue of aviation infrastructure in the north recommended that the federal Department of Transport "...should lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure. The strategy should clearly outline the role that Transport Canada will play in addressing the infrastructure needs of remote northern airports." The federal government's response to this recommendation was that "...Transport Canada will work with territorial governments and other federal government departments and stakeholders to identify shared priorities for northern transportation infrastructure, including, but not limited to, northern airports."

What specific work is currently taking place between your department and the federal Department of Transport to develop a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of work is taking place, especially with Transport Canada, on a number of fronts in terms of trying to get more funding for the north, whether it be the airports or the marine. Those are the two main ones that we were working very closely and through the National Trade Corridors Fund, there was a northern carve-out, which benefited us quite significantly. Also, in our Oceans Protection Plan, we're expecting a call letter very soon for the north version, or they call it the Arctic, so we're anticipating that.

Through the Airports Capital Assistance Program, most of the funding is still available to the territories. Every time I meet with the federal minister, I advocate that we need a northern airports capital assistance program because that's what was sought in their evaluation of the program and that's something that I'm continuing to advocate. There are a number of fronts that I'm involved in or our officials are involved in, in terms of trying to secure the federal government to focus their efforts on the north and the Arctic.

I also want to applaud the Premier and the Deputy Premier on the arctic sovereignty side, the advocacy that they're doing with the Prime Minister and the defence minister in terms

of trying to secure more funding towards the Arctic. There are a number of fronts that we are doing. The joint letter between the housing corporation and the Premier to the Prime Minister along with NTI, those are things that we're trying to proceed with as a cabinet. As a government, we're ensuring that we're trying to get as much federal funding up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In front of me, I have the *Nunavut Airports 20 Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment 2014-2034*. Within that report, there are three communities that expressed relocation of their airports: Pangnirtung having safety issues with poor weather, high wind speeds, mountains towering, also proximity of the runway to schools and other community facilities; and also to Kimmirut, Kimmirut being “among the most physically challenging airports in Canada,” surround by terrain and short takeoff and landing, “A study was carried out for the relocation of Kimmirut Airport in the late 1990’s” during the GNWT; and also Pond Inlet, being the community expressing “interest in tourism...and the growing political interest by government in confirming high arctic sovereignty...”

What I don't see in the report is that in my riding of Hudson Bay, there are safety issues that have been identified within the community integrated sustainability plan and there are some real facts that had occurred in the past. In 2012 there was a fatal plane crash, and also late last year, December 2021, an aircraft approached the runway in a high-wind situation.

I'm wondering: later down the road, would there be any potential federal funding that will be put for those airport relocations in Nunavut communities that have been identified within the 20-year infrastructure needs assessment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the airport relocations, we have been trying to look for appropriate federal funding that fits in within the criteria. We desperately need to relocate some of our airports and it's something that we're continuing to keep looking for. I can't go into this House and ask for a hundred-million-dollar relocation. That's about the price tag that's right now to do a relocation of an airport, an airstrip and everything. That's money that we don't have, so we're trying to rely on federal funding such as that.

Under your comment about your riding, every one of our airports gets inspected and what safety concerns there are, and through that work between Transport Canada, who is the regulatory body, and our department, we're able to try to fix the problem. When it's a larger scope, we often apply for the Airports Capital Assistance Program. If my memory is right, we got one in Sanirajak that will need finishing off and one in Clyde River; it's finished in Clyde River. There are opportunities and through those opportunities, we try to maximize our asks for these areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) We lost quorum.

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) We now have quorum. Next name on my list is Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier Mr. Hickes touched on the subject of improving the safety, reliability, and efficiency of air transportation by building new shelters to house heavy equipment that is essential for air operations. Minister, your department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that the GN's total expenditures will be about \$10 million and it also indicates that the combined cargo and maintenance of our buildings are a new concept. The operation of the cargo facility could represent a private sector business opportunity and will promote food security and the efficiency of airline operations.

In March of this year you informed the Legislative Assembly that these facilities can be leased to the private sector to improve the way cargo is handled in those communities, which are Arviat, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, and Grise Fiord. I'm wondering what discussions your department has had to date with airlines concerning this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through this capital process, we're making the airlines aware and especially those that are running cargo to those communities. Those are ongoing discussions that we have with the airlines as part of our regular meetings with the airlines in terms of what's taking place, what's transpiring, and this would be one of them. We're also looking at the retailers too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that there is an excellent working relationship between GN officials and the airlines. I think it's amazing that there is so much information flowing back and forth and problem-solving on the fly as it comes up, and I can't tell you how important that is and I appreciate that work so much and those relationships.

You just mentioned the retailers and I'm wondering: is there a similar relationship with retailers that the Government of Nunavut has with airlines, for example, with the understanding that those relationships and meeting processes are really tied to contracts? To my knowledge, there isn't a similar contractual obligation with retailers, but I wonder if there is some kind of a relationship that's similar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is not a real formal [discussion] coming from my department. I don't know if there are any other departments that have formal discussions with the retailers in terms of food insecurity and that, but for the airlines, it is crucial that we have that relationship because we do have the airstrips and the air terminals and they have to fly and if there are any safety issues, we have to make sure that that relationship is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for indulging me by answering that question. I realize it was a little bit over the line. I really do hope that that relationship gets built and flourishes, but we can talk about that another time.

On August 13, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund for four projects, which are the renovation and expansion of the Rankin Inlet Airport Terminal Building, preparatory work for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project... . In my head, I was saying "BIPAR." Sorry; I stumbled on that. ...preparatory work for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project, study and design of an intercommunity all-season road in the Kivalliq, and installation of passenger boarding ramps at seven airports.

In June 2022 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1.5 million in capital carryover funding for the Kivalliq Trade Corridor Study. As of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have secured a contract. We put it out for tender and we have secured a contractor to do the work. Right now the work is progressing for the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister. I think it was in the winter sitting that we talked briefly about the idea of creating a road highway or designating the roads from Apex to the port as a highway to potentially access more federal funds to maintain those roads.

I know, especially over the last week, it has been extremely dangerous for people coming and going into town and Apex. Actually, when we went to the port just yesterday, that road seemed pretty smooth, but I know that it can get really rough and potentially damage really expensive equipment.

I wonder if you could talk to us about whether or not you have taken any initiative on that suggestion and whether or not you would also consider adding the road to the airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are city roads, so we haven't been the ones that are leading any discussions towards this, but I am aware that the city has applied for the National Trade Corridors Fund to fix the road from the port to the city. That's one of the many asks that the city has asked and not just the city but our territory throughout. I don't know the progression on that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. On December 9, 2021 Transport Canada announced the launch of a new call for proposals under the National Trade Corridors Fund with a focus on increasing the fluidity of Canada's supply chains, and the call for proposals closed on June 30, 2022. I'm wondering what proposals your department, if any, submitted under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular call letter was really beyond what we needed to ask, so we did not submit any proposals under that particular call letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Any more questions? Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me begin with the facility listed for Qikiqtarjuaq, the deep seaport that you are conducting the preparatory work for, with the hamlet office requesting changes, so have any negotiations commenced with the local government? I would like to hear that response firstly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was in May where we met with the hamlet and the HTO representatives to begin the process towards this project, and at this time, we have stated our openness to discussions on this infrastructure project. This is where it stands. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your satisfactory response. I am aware that preparation work is commencing and that this project will proceed. Now, I imagine you have already seen the announcement for the RFP, calling for design proposals. The community had advanced designs on this port, and I wonder if this previous design that took several years with the potential location was outlined has been reviewed.

It took quite a lot of work, and this previous proposal is several years old, and it outlined the delineation of the dredged seaward edge, and the footprint on the seabed, along with the landward approaches to this planned port, and I wonder if these issues were incorporated hence my querying you on this matter.

We are concerned that all of the previous work may go out the door, as we dealt with the previous challenges locally by contracting out the design, and we want to ensure these past research studies can be added, nonetheless, I wonder if prior notice has been provided to your department about all of these studies that delineated the port parameters.

The reasoning is the HTO, and the hunters have waited over 20 years for this project, constantly pushing for this project. The changes are apparent in looking at the seabed and seashore erosion occurring, it is noticeable especially in the fall, as our hunters use the current facility area. I would like more questions on this aspect, and I will have concerns to provide, however, the previous studies I mentioned were specific to the community proposal, and the results may no longer be applicable now due to these changes on the landscape and seabed.

Are there negotiations going on, as non-prejudicial discussion is needed so I urge you to think on that. I would like to hear if any concerns or positions have been relayed to your department and I would gladly hear what you have to report on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process is in the works, if that was what you were referencing, including areas we have heard of and are aware of as the hamlet should be requesting more meetings. The funds for that work are included in the budget proposal we are asking for approval here, as the funds are for community repair projects, and we would fund the repairs to the existing breakwater.

With respect to the Qikiqtarjuaq deep sea port project, this is slightly different in scope, however, the project design would include new studies on the seabed, the footprint of the proposed facility and the various other studies so these are currently being compiled, and we anticipate the completion by the end of this fiscal year.

In English, this relates to the (interpretation ends) engineering aspects (interpretation) that will be contracted out, and this includes a comprehensive discussion with the community on the best potential location, and we are expecting that to commence, and this is related to that larger project here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is clearly understandable, what you just outlined. I am deeply concerned about these issues myself, and I have maintained that concern for many years, as our community made full

preparations to have this deep seaport proposal complete and to not have a proposal missing components.

We learned from our previous attempts, and what preparations are needed for big capital project proposals. The community needs to have all their cards in order, to have everything ready for such a big project.

I would like to turn my attention to a question on another matter. With the pandemic measures creating unnecessary obstacles for many residents, what were (interpretation ends) the chain issues on your department's small capital and park development projects that were approved for 2023? (interpretation) What impacts did that have for the 2022-23 fiscal year? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Malliki)(interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, we have submitted the budget allocation request and we try to ensure we spend these funds wisely, and the funds were largely used towards the projects listed, and we have utilized these monies properly.

Now, with regard to the impacts on future funding issues, as an example, if we wish to purchase a vehicle, we plan for this purchase six months prior to the purchase, to ensure lead time to produce the vehicle and today, we have seen some barriers crop up. To illustrate, many items are now months behind, and larger vehicles which we require are now taking much longer to produce so this six-month prior preparation may need to be changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that information. I now wish to turn to this other matter affecting my other constituency community of Clyde River, specifically on September 10, 2019 (interpretation ends) the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River. The Legislative Assembly approved a \$2,976,000 capital carryover for this project in June 2022. As of today, what is the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I can use your chairmanship power, this issue falls under the purview of the Department of Environment and the officials with that department can provide an answer, as they will be here for their departmental appropriation presentations, and I really want to respond to that question under that portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister, for that clarification. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I really want to have a clear understanding with you on that matter under your other portfolio, and I guess I was ahead of the curve, so I apologize for my indiscretion, and I will ask that question when we reach that agenda item. I will stop for now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions that I have are regarding the port near Kugluktuk called the (interpretation ends) Grays Bay Port and Road Project, (interpretation) which would be the seaport, including the all-weather road that would run to the NWT border and connect to Yellowknife via the ice road corridor. That project was initiated by the KIA, and they were searching for funding, but recently the KIA president has retired. With the KIA president retiring, what is the status of that project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an interim President acting in his stead with KIA, and we just recently held a teleconference with the association last month about this project, and to hear the status of this project to date. This project is spearheaded by KIA and the funding, and proposals require more work that will be done by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. In the briefing I received, they have slowed down the work for the winter cycle.

Additionally, they also stated that they would ask Transport Canada to extend the funding. Although that is the case, the federal government just recently announced \$4 billion towards mining infrastructure projects across Canada. We will continue to collaborate with them, along with the Government of NWT. As the three interested parties, we will need to determine our next steps, but we agreed amongst ourselves that KIA will continue to be the lead body. That was my understanding in my discussions with the interim KIA president. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now have this other question, specifically the constraints that were implemented for the COVID-19 influenza pandemic, most of the work stopped as the airlines stopped going to Ulukhaktok from Kugluktuk, much like the slowing down of the flights between Kugluktuk and Yellowknife due to the mandates.

Many Inuit in Ulukhaktok as well as my constituents in Kugluktuk have strong ties with these communities in the NWT. I wonder if these extra-territorial connecting flights will be reinstated. I had discussions with you about that earlier, but I wanted to have that

clarified. When will the airline recommence the route from Kugluktuk to Ulukhaktok or Yellowknife in the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. We do not manage the operations of flights, as Canadian North operates the flights. I am aware that my colleague has held discussions with them, and I too, have discussed this concern with the President of the airline about this route. This still requires further discussions with the airline, and to determine if these connecting flights will be brought back, but to reiterate, the airlines make decisions on the routes they fly as we do not have any control over these flights. That is where it stands currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I thank you for that clarification, and I will continue in my position to try to encourage Canadian North to reinstate that route, probably through correspondence. I will also work with my counterparts to try to resolve this with residents of Kugluktuk and Ulukhaktok and their representatives. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you done, Mr. Anavilok? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize. Thanks for recognizing me again. I just had one final question that I've got through my previous line of questioning. In the substantiation sheet for other small capital, lifecycle, etcetera, for \$500,000, in the Schedule on page 2 says that the call letters to hamlets in Nunavut are sent out in March of each year for the upcoming new fiscal year. I wonder if the minister would just be able to give us a list of which communities sent submissions for small craft harbours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2022, the projects under the small craft harbour portion of that, Kugluktuk and Sanikiluaq were the two that have received the \$500,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that, but were there any other communities that made applications under this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the information I have, I don't know whether there were more. Normally, for the Community Transportation Initiatives

Program, that's an oversubscribed program. There are way more requests than there are funds available, but I can commit to providing that at a later date in terms of what that is and also, on an annual basis, we publish the report which includes how many requests that have been taken under that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed to the next name on my list, we're going to have a 15-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 14:56 and resumed at 15:14

Chairman: I would like to call this committee meeting back to order. Next name on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Minister Akeeagok and your officials. I'll ask this question first on small capital. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2022-23 capital estimates include \$1 million for airport-related lifecycle renovations. What specific lifecycle renovations has your department been undertaking with this funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to refer that question to Mr. Hawkins through you. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the transportation equipment and facilities projects, this year we have purchased a grader in Grise Fiord; two plow trucks, one in Sanirajak and one in Coral Harbour; an additional plow truck was purchased and went to Cambridge Bay; and a runway sweeper in Rankin Inlet and along with that was the shipping charges of about \$100,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the communities will be receiving funding for parking garages for their equipment. Is it possible to access funds to make renovations or enlarge their existing parking spaces? I hope I was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the member for bringing this subject up by way of correspondence. The hamlet council had also written to us. We will be working closely together with the hamlet council and if it's accessible through here, we might do so or by other means. There is a requirement to

build that equipment shelter in Pond Inlet and we will definitely have to find something in order to rectify this problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. In Chesterfield Inlet there are commercial fishing activities happening only during the summertime and their processing plant is way too small now. Have you considered building new or to make an addition to the present processing plant in Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We usually fund the processing plants and freezers through operations and maintenance, and I can't give you a definite answer at this time because we're focusing on capital right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We are dealing with (interpretation ends) Total Capital Expenditures. \$15,354,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page K-5. Economic Development. \$750,000. Any questions? Does the committee agree for \$750,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page K-2. \$16,104,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): My colleagues, I thank you all for approving our request. We know that we have a large portfolio and we will make sure that we do the best we can. We get a lot done when we're working together. Please feel free to correspond with me.

I would like to thank my staff and the staff in the offices and thank you very much for approving our request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. (interpretation) Please remain seated as we will be dealing with (interpretation ends) Tab 5, Environment. I would like to ask the minister: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Does the committee to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the...(no audio)...

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. To my left is Deputy Minister Jimmy Noble; to my right is Nikki Nweze, and I apologize for mispronouncing your name, and she is the Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Environment's capital estimates for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

For this fiscal period, the Department of Environment is proposing a capital budget of \$2.55 million. This expenditure will permit the department to concentrate on two program areas: Wildlife Management and Parks and Special Places.

(interpretation ends) The Wildlife Operations and Wildlife Research Divisions will spend \$750,000 to renovate the wildlife office in Taloyoak and \$300,000 to design a new wildlife office in Arctic Bay.

These divisions will also spend \$370,000 to replace old mobile and lab equipment.

A major project identified for parks in the 2023-24 fiscal year is the development of infrastructure for the new Agguttinni Territorial Park north of Clyde River. There has been a significant increase in the cost of construction materials which has delayed implementation of the required infrastructure, as well as finding a successful vendor to undertake the project. Therefore, in the interim, the department is currently exploring potential partnership opportunities with stakeholders to utilize new builds in the community for the park.

We will continue to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of Nunavut's territorial parks and campgrounds. All work in our territorial parks is done in keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement.

(interpretation) In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's capital plan remains focused on areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$2.55 million. The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates provide funding for wildlife office replacements, facility renovations, and small capital projects, including the acquisition of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks. Members encourage the minister to publicly clarify the department's current schedule of wildlife office replacements.

On September 10, 2019 the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of a new territorial park near the community of Clyde River. On February 16, 2022 the department issued a request for tender for the construction of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre. The tender was cancelled on May 20, 2022. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this project.

Members continue to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to Nunavut's territorial parks system, in addition to containing information concerning such measures as the annual number of visitors to our parks. This work would benefit from cooperation with the Tourism and Cultural Industries Division of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. This type of reporting would be of benefit to all members in evaluating the impact of the parks program. Members also continue to recommend that the department's annual reporting provide detailed information concerning its usage of terrestrial and marine mobile equipment and other capital assets.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do any of the members have general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? We will proceed to the page-

by-page review of departmental estimates starting on page I-3. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,550,000. Do any members have questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions. Mr. Chairman, on the department's '22-23 capital estimates it included \$2,636,000 for wildlife office renovations. As of today, how much of this funding has been spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this year, none was expended due to the high costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On September 10 in 2019 the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River. The legislative approved a \$2,976,000 capital carryover for this project during the last sitting in June. As of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today we have been engaging with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association who are building a similar building towards a conservation area. We're trying to see, because they were in the same situation where their own request was over, so we're partnering to see how we can work together to put up buildings into that that both of us can use. We're trying to use this amount of dollars towards that, and currently we're finalizing our memorandum of understanding between the organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Just to confirm, is that a result of the tender that was issued in February 2022 and was cancelled on May 20, 2022? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if the minister could just give a brief description. I know the agreement isn't in place, and I hate doing hypotheticals, but if an

agreement is completed, and there is obviously going to be some cost sharing... . Jeez, I keep using the word “assume” today. It leads me to assume that the majority of the funding will come from the budget that was appropriated here, which would probably be over 50 percent of the agreement. So would the Government of Nunavut be doing the procurement process for that project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the discussions between QIA and Parks are not complete. We still need to work with our partners from Community and Government Services. The plan and the work is that what it is leading up to right now is that QIA would do the procurement of the buildings, with the funds from this to be used as part of that so we can get space for those buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. I would appreciate if the minister would keep us, as a committee, up to date on the progress of that because anytime over 50 percent of public monies goes into a project, the Nunavut procurement model has to be followed. I'll leave that alone and I'll go on to my next question. I'll take the minister's head nodding over there that he'll keep the committee informed.

With regard to the Canada Nature Fund, have there been any other funding applications submitted to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time, we haven't utilized the funds that we have right now. Once that takes place, then that's within in our target. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our committee Chair's opening comments, he made reference to beginning the practice of preparing an annual report to the Assembly on its expenditures and activities related to Nunavut's territorial park system. The minister's predecessor had committed to providing these reports. My first question is: when will the first annual report be tabled in the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a timeline, but I will commit to getting a timeline for the committee. Right now I don't have a firm timeline of when those reports will be available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question came up in the committee meeting and from what I understand, how does the department measure the impact of Nunavut's parks to the territorial economy? I know there are some estimations that are done and it's kind of a broad scope, but when we look at economies to scale and what benefit to Nunavut's economy these parks have, other than just the nature component of it, there is a monetary or spending that's done in the territory that helps contribute to our economy. I'm just wondering how the department measures the impact on the economy from territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we don't measure. We haven't gotten to that level for this.

Each of these territorial parks will have to come with a master plan, and as part of the master plan those are the areas where our committees will be collecting and moving forward. Right now, the majority of our parks are trying to get their master plans done in order for them to start the operations of it. Right now, we're not trying to find out the economic opportunities on this. Each of these territorial parks are utilized by the communities and are very useful. That's the level or extent that I'll say at this time, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do look forward to that work being done for a number of different reasons. When we look at even just budgeting in this House, and we look at forecasting of different industries, and even just our business community, when they look at getting involved in park operations or some of the spin-off benefits to having this territorial parks, it's not just airlines and people coming here, hotels, the obvious ones. I'm sure there are best practices that are done in other jurisdictions that I'm sure the minister and his staff can look at.

I'm just going to finish with a comment and it just seems to be a general theme across multiple departments on so many projects being deferred and here we are looking to approve the largest capital budget in Nunavut's history. I'm not laying this as...it's a general comment to all of cabinet, where you look at Northwest Territories, as recently as last year, put forward their largest capital budget in their history, and now they're scaling back in a number of different areas and delaying projects and whatnot. When we look at the \$338 million capital budget going forward this year I do have some concerns with the volatility of the market. Again, I'm not laying this at anyone's feet. It's just that I would like to go on record that I am concerned with the past history of the last couple of years of how the tendering process has gone out, how many tenders have been cancelled.

I do have some concerns already, it's quite obvious that we're going to have the largest carry-over in Nunavut's history, so I'm just kind of raising the flag that I think it's something that we all need to be aware of as we're approving these projects. I don't

discount the necessity of anything that we've seen so far and that we've approved. I just want to go on record of making that note. I'll end there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very valid comments and concerns that the member is raising. As cabinet, we're all concerned in terms of the number of cancellations that we have been making. Definitely, if we need to find different ways of doing things, then that's something that we've been committed as cabinet, especially on the capital side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to question you about the Kugluktuk HTO, and the first question relates to the workers under the department, the wildlife officers Allen Niptanatiak and Russell Akeeagok who are employed, and they work with the community hunters and HTO, and to first identify them, as their work is indispensable. I would like to know what the status of the wildlife office is, thank you.

The wildlife office is quite dilapidated and old now and limited in space and they are looking for a larger space to work out of. They are looking to add an unused space, which used to house the (interpretation ends) laboratory (interpretation) and to use it, it requires renovations. I would like to know: what the status of this facility is currently being worked on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, we know that the building that is being used is old now. We know that works need to be done on it. The monies that we want to use for that are included in the proposal for Kugluktuk. The offices, as to who needs to get offices, we try to put that together every year and we can present those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question in regards to the territorial parks. Can you give us information, (interpretation ends) how does your department track the number of visitors to Nunavut's territorial parks? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not tracking the number of people that are entering to the parks at this time. That's part of the work that our committees undertake, as each of the parks have their own joint committees.

Once the master plan is complete, the implementation and reporting, all that will be needed to be done. At this point, we are focused on trying to establish these parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that. Now, I would like to query you on the legal requirements as identified previous, which relate to the required (interpretation ends) annual report (interpretation) that must be submitted to the Legislative Assembly and tabled with notice. Your predecessor who was the minister previously stated that there needed to be announcements about the reports.

(interpretation ends) During the Legislative Assembly's consideration of your department's 2022-23 capital estimates, MLA's recommended that your department begin the practice of preparing an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on its expenditures and activities related to Nunavut's territorial parks. Your predecessor committed to providing these reports. When will the first annual report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): I do not have a date. That was asked earlier. We have not set a date. It is on our work plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next name on my list is Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question specific to an earlier comment where you mentioned the Agguttinni Territorial Park outside of Clyde River, and towards this conservation area.

Now, it was noted there in your opening comments that the funding was inadequate, and contract bids were too high resulting in QIA having to work to implement it, as well as your department collaborating on the park's office space, to rent the space as part of the agreement between the parties.

Can you respond as to whether other parties have been approached towards being a signatory to this agreement so that the space can be leased? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The QIA were to build this office building specifically through the Tallurutiit NMCA, where funding was identified for the costs of the building. I am unaware of what other uses will be included in this building at this time, nonetheless, our department has requested space within this office building.

As well, the funds we had budgeted towards this space will be used to lease space or to pay for the addition, but at this time we are working towards a lease with QIA, and that is where it stands at this junction. In terms of other parties, I believe QIA can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I now understand that much better now, that it is through those funds from the park, and through QIA that determine whether you are part of this building. I had largely misunderstood hence my question to you on it.

I now understand the situation, now another issue bounded by this report relates to the February 16, 2022 letter, where (interpretation ends) your department issued a request for tender for the construction of the new Auyittuq Territorial Parks office and visitor's centre. The tender was cancelled on May 20 of this year. When will this project be retendered? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): I think that you are referring to the Agguttinni park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not looking to retender this currently. At this time, we are in discussions with QIA on how we can be accommodated so as to have space in the building. QIA will be tendering the RFP when they are looking to construct the building, or they may just contract it out. I am unsure which avenue they will take, as QIA will act as our landlord instead. Perhaps I can state it in that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, with relation to this matter, it was unclear in your second response whether QIA or the territorial parks are the lead, although I am aware of it now. I went ahead with this query, so perhaps to clarify I can ask what the reasons are? Is it due to the excessive costs?

I imagine so and hence why the QIA has taken over the lead for this project, or did this happen due to the parties not knowing which would pay for this? Were the plans made prior to this boondoggle? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a competition under the RFP, but most of the bids were much higher than the budgeted funds, as it was 150 percent above the amounts. It basically tied our hands.

Due to this, I believe QIA was in the same place, and due to the parallel release of the RFPs, it became obvious to us, and perhaps to QIA, that we needed to partner up to meet this need, as they too need a building to house their offices. With that need, it became apparent so we began working in partnership with QIA acting as the point for the building, almost like our contract builder, and this is how it looks like it will move forward. If it succeeds, and if we can agree on our MOU, then we anticipate being able to bring up supplies next summer on the sealift, as QIA building supplies should land there. This is where it stands now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree. The area around and outside of Clyde River is very beautiful, although not many sites are identified, but it has great potential for tourism, especially in the springtime.

Now, this would have a boon on the community if it went through, and the community has faith in the potential of this land. We will have to support this, due to the long-standing commitment of the residents to establish it, and further, there needs to be an office for administering the lands outside of the community.

Other communities have that opportunity, and we need to encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity and we need to strongly support any initiative they bring. Now, let me turn to this other matter, as I am just commenting on this subject I wish to turn to.

I like to write notes everywhere when questions arise, and I found a note written thusly (interpretation end) wife-life replacement (interpretation) while I was trying to write down “replace parks office”. I wrote wife instead of “wild”.

To this matter, Mr. Chairman, I would ask if the offices that will be replaced and no longer used, if there are any plans to utilize them or if there is any usage left in them until a wildlife office can be found? What plans are in place or has this been included in your plans? I would like to hear more about this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. If I understood your question, you asked if the wildlife office under Environment have replacement plans, or for use after they are abandoned due to age, or replacement.

When we deal with any government building, they are inspected by officials from CG&S whether it needs replacement or renovations. We partner with Community and Government Services on any building related assessment where it is in use, whether to renovate it and at this time, we have submitted our request.

Some offices require renovation while others need complete replacement, so we are looking to replace one office currently in use, however, annually we assess the buildings, but funding requests identify where we will conduct our renovation as we usually renovate one building a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am unsure if the response applied to my question, but perhaps I am behind in understanding your response which may be appropriate.

Nonetheless, communities fluctuate in terms of population, and those of us in smaller communities here in the north tend to be a lot poorer in terms of infrastructure. After we identify our needs in our capital plans, we also identify buildings that need replacement and when buildings are replaced, then we want to make plans to use the abandoned building, so we can use it instead.

>>*Laughter*

Now, the reason why I queried you about that matter, the majority of communities who have an HTO or HTA. These entities are amongst the lowest funded organizations and are limited financially in terms of office space. I know that they get supplemental funding, or they should as smaller communities are challenged to find spaces, with already limited office spaces.

Due to the lack of available spaces, the government agencies that are funded can get replacement funding, which is why communities fight to get the abandoned spaces so they can use it for another purpose. Due to this reality, this is why communities tend to salivate when replacement buildings are being funded locally, and it would be good to allow for that.

Wildlife offices are one avenue that could be used locally, and this is just a commentary and in conclusion, perhaps I can turn to this last item. For small capital projects, under the \$250,000 fund, I did not have the opportunity to review the substantiation for the funds. But, for this fund, can communities apply for this funding under the (interpretation ends) substantiation sheet (interpretation) which I didn't read, but under others.

How can they apply this towards more development, as not every community has a local wildlife officer. Can it be applied towards a part-time replacement such as a polar bear monitor? Can they apply for funding for items such as this? This is my last questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first matter you spoke to, the HTO or HTA, they are independent organizations that were adapted by

recognition under the Nunavut Agreement, and they are now legally recognized. Further, they receive funding under the Implementation funding for operating funds, and that is their basic funding.

In terms of our government's association with these bodies, we are not involved at all with offices related to them, and I wanted to clarify that first of all. Let me also clarify further, that in communities such as Pond Inlet, the HTO financed their own office building and rent out office space locally.

There are more HTOs that are taking on that responsibility, and for those communities, I am righteously proud of their hard work, and further I encourage them to succeed. Now, the \$250,000 fund is specifically for operational matters, and can be applied to our wildlife officers or territorial parks.

We do not have any funding separate from that, nor funds that can be applied towards, as this fund is specifically for our employee's operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee has a follow-up question. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for this additional opportunity, and I will make this concise.

Can you use your ministerial portfolio, perhaps also your status as an Inuk, in consideration of our communities, to establish this precedent? At least in my opinion, it seems possible, to announce: "we are providing an option for you to purchase the excess building with the right of first refusal" and ask the community if they prefer that option.

This would provide an opportunity locally, and local bodies usually collaborate on opportunities, at least they do in our community due to the lack of available spaces. I just wanted to espouse that option, and that is my last item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these buildings are no longer government buildings as they fall under (interpretation ends) surplus (interpretation) assets, and sometimes it takes an inordinate amount of time to transfer ownership. This is due to the constant back and forth process related to paperwork.

This tends to add a lot of time to this process, nonetheless, we are trying to improve this transferral process, and I too feel this need. I have also directed my officials to look at options while the buildings are still useable, to look at competitive ways to have local bodies to rent them from the government, and this is as far as I have directed staff to research this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want a clarification from the minister. When the minister was asked about the new park office and visitor centre that was tendered for Agguttinni Territorial Park, as the minister stated he will not retender it, but he's going to work [with] Qikiqtani Inuit Association, is it to get a building? Can the minister elaborate what that entails? What the project will be? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The discussions between Qikiqtani Inuit Association and our department for Agguttinni, is that we would help fund QIA to build the building and to lease this part of the space. The intricacies and details of it are still being work on, and that's going to go through a memorandum of understanding.

The decision that we made for this \$4 million is that we want to partner with QIA to get a building. The purpose of the building that they're building is for conservation too, so two and two go hand in hand. That's good a working partnership that we're forming with QIA on that particular project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation just stated earlier that federal funds must be tendered out. How is the Minister of Environment working around using these federal funds if the project is not going to be tendered out? Will these federal funds have to be returned to the federal government because it's not being tendered? If we can just get an explanation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the funding agency for this, the conservation, has agreed with the approach that we're taking and have agreed that for the cost share funds that we're doing, if we're going this route they're acceptable to it. We consulted with them and they've understood the dilemma we're facing and the opportunity that's there right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to the other topic, there's money in here for wildlife office replacements and the money being requested in total for the Arctic Bay wildlife office replacement will be \$3.75 million. In the past, at \$2 million, these projects were not going ahead. Does the minister feel this project will go ahead at almost double the cost? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Our government had to get creative with this because there are major school renovations that are taking place in Arctic Bay too. To try and align with it, that's the approach that's taking place at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since they're hoping to get a good deal because it's being aligned for \$3.75 million, what does the minister anticipate the budget would have been if they were not aligned? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, often the construction companies are listening to our deliberations. If I put a number here and I try to do a stand-alone, that number will show up in the tender, so I'm being very careful about this. I just don't like providing numbers through the capital, specifically to approach it, just because it feels like it's like that. If we put a number there, another 30 percent of it will be on the tender. That's one of the reasons why I'm working closely with our finance minister and Community and Government Services to find solutions for this. This is unacceptable now. When we put a dollar amount or we make a big federal announcement that we're going to have a \$4 million project in Clyde River, boom, a \$10 million tender shows up.

We need to do something different and I agree with that, and for Arctic Bay, we're trying to do it to align it to see if that's the way to go about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister's predecessor provided a condition of the wildlife offices and a replacement schedule back in October 2019. Does this replacement schedule still hold today? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have to go back to my office and see if that letter to the standing committee has been delivered. I do recall right before we sat that I had a letter with all the updates on the conditions of our wildlife offices. If I haven't sent that, I do apologize to the Chair and I definitely will live up to that commitment of providing that to the Chair as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next wildlife office to be replaced is Arctic Bay and I completely agree with it. I have seen it and it does need to be replaced, but when we were doing our deliberations with Community and Government Services, there's preplanning funding there to replace the Rankin Inlet Wildlife Office and in the previous list, Rankin Inlet was down on the 11th list. I'm just wondering how it went from 11 to No. 2. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Rankin Inlet, that one is a leased building, and what we're trying to do is to own the building for Rankin Inlet and that's where the ranking criteria climbed to becoming second. We don't want the risk of losing an office in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the same document, it did say yes, Rankin Inlet is leased, but Arviat is also leased; Baker Lake is also leased. I'm wondering how Rankin Inlet got bumped up over Arviat and Baker Lake, even though they're also leased. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct that those two are the only buildings that are being leased through the wildlife office. The difference from my staff's perspective is Arviat, they're stand-alone and that's a stand-alone building. With Rankin Inlet, that's shared offices with other government departments, which probably is the reason why the ranking was much higher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to ask the minister to commit, but I'm going to ask if he can take serious consideration as to putting Arviat next on the list, as it is leased too, and the Arviat wildlife office is central to the working relationship between the Department of Environment and the community and I know that lots of hunters and trappers and just people in general go there a lot. I would like to ask the minister if he would seriously consider about putting Arviat on the list too as a replacement wildlife office. That was just a comment. I'm done. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I visited Arviat and visited that office, that was a very busy office, I have to say, and a very welcoming office too, with very dedicated conservation officers there. Definitely I'll have my officials talk with the Community and Government Services when it comes to the ranking criteria in terms of

their state of the buildings. I rely on that as our decisions to make. I'll commit to having discussions related to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for questions. (interpretation ends) Go to page I-3. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,550,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page I-2. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,550,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that we have concluded the review of the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Minister Akeeagok.

Mr. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you very much, my colleagues. I'm glad we just completed this with due diligence in our work.

At this moment I would like to recognize my colleagues and those working behind the scenes for working very hard towards this and I'm very grateful for that.

I again thank you for approving our proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. Next on the list is Nunavut Arctic College. Minister, if you can get to the witness table.

Okay. I would like to proceed with our meeting. Minister, are you ready? I would like to ask the Minister Gross: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To my left we have Vice-President of the Nunavut Arctic College Jackie Price, and to my right we have President Rebecca Mearns.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present Nunavut Arctic College's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates requesting \$2.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

The breakdown of funding is as follows:

- \$500,000 for small capital;
- \$1,500,000 for ongoing lifecycle;
- \$300,000 for information technology, or IT, infrastructure.

Funds allocated for small capital support the college in meeting its daily operational needs, including vehicle maintenance and replacement, and furniture. For 2023-24, Nunavut Arctic College has earmarked funding on vehicle replacement and repair and to install a security CCTV system at the Piquqsilirivvik Cultural Centre in Clyde River.

The college's largest capital request is for ongoing lifecycle. This funding allows the college to maximize the life and use of its facilities through repairs and replacements. The college has earmarked funds to replace, renovate, and upgrade facilities in Iqaluit, Naujaat, Rankin Inlet, and Sanirajak. Remaining funds will be used for emergency repairs that are required throughout the year.

The necessity of information technology for post-secondary institutes continues to strengthen. This continuing shifting field requires consistent investment to keep up to the technology available. For the fiscal year of 2023-24, the college is requesting funds to enhance and upgrade Nunavut Arctic College's wireless infrastructure across the territory. This work lends itself to the college's goal to continuously secure Internet access for the delivery of its programs and to support members of its community. These are the capital plans for the 2023-24 fiscal year. I am happy to answer any questions at this time. *Quana, qujannamiik*, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins consideration of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates for Nunavut Arctic College.

Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for 2022-23 is \$2.3 million with the proposed funding being allocated to three budget lines to address small capital, ongoing lifecycle and information technology needs across the territory.

Nunavut's community learning centres play an important role in providing community-level programming for adult learning opportunities and post-secondary education. In November 2020 a "Preliminary Report" on the infrastructure status of community learning centres was tabled in the Assembly. To date, there has been no update to this report. Further, it is not clear that the college has prioritized which community learning centres have been identified and prioritized for replacement, renovation, or expansion within the capital plan. Members note that in some communities where community learning centres are on school properties, capital projects being undertaken under the Department of Education can have a significant impact on the status of the community learning centre. The standing committee strongly encourages college staff to work more closely with their counterparts in Education to ensure that adult learners do not lose opportunities to continue with their education and career training options.

Documentation provided by the government indicates that a number of vehicles and equipment will be purchased under the college's small capital budget. Members would appreciate further detail on what specific vehicles and equipment will be purchased and for which facility.

Members continue to encourage the minister to work with the board of Nunavut Arctic College and its industry partners to develop and expand mine and trades training infrastructure opportunities in communities other than the regional centres.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I don't see any. Headquarters. Nunavut Arctic College Headquarters. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,300,000. Questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one line of questioning, I think, on this topic.

Documentation provided by the government indicates that some of the college's ongoing lifecycle budget will be allocated to renovating the Iqaluit residence units. I know there have been foundation and shifting issues that have been going on for a number of years and I know there have been previous monies approved and allocated to that. Out of the \$275,000 that has been requested this year, it's not a lot of money. My question is: how much has been spent previously on the issue of the residences and how much further years will be needed to have monies appropriated to complete the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question regarding the Nunatta residence here in Iqaluit. The Q-units do need to be renovated. The previous money that was allocated for the renovation was not spent and is carried over and because of delays with ransomware and COVID, the projects were delayed, but we will have an update. I can ask Ms. Price to further elaborate on the answer. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. As the minister stated, the Q-units here at the Nunatta Campus have been identified for upgrades. Due to the world situation the last couple of years, funding estimates have been fluctuating, so we don't currently have a plan for the immediate future for Nunatta, but it is a file that is being followed by our capital planner and we plan to continue to work with the Department of Community and Government Services to finalize the request to support that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do. Maybe if the minister could be able to provide some information to the committee on how much has been carried over in the past and what work has been completed. I note that this project has been ongoing for a number of years. Maybe through written correspondence, the minister could be able to provide a little bit more background on it.

In the substantiation project under the same, the \$1.5 million under small capital lifecycle, in the business case summary in the second paragraph, it speaks to "Nunavut Arctic College will need to address issues such as power repairs on shifting or sinking residences and community learning centres." Maybe if the minister would be able to identify which community learning centres are also having foundation issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to provide that detail through letter of correspondence as we don't have the particular details to that information, but it is in the preliminary report. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, I am no expert in math, obviously, however, within the capital estimates under Headquarters of the document we are reviewing Capital Estimates, on page M-4, it mentions under "small capital" a fund of

\$250,000 or less. This figure, is that a line item that has remained in this budget since the previous budget since it now lists \$500,000 under small capital? Was that listed mistakenly? Or am I misunderstanding this item, if so, please elaborate in order for me to understand and so I will have understanding when we are dealing with this item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Hickee): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Minister.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Can the member elaborate on the threshold or is this... ? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In these documents we have in front of us, (interpretation ends) on page M-4 it shows IT infrastructure, ongoing lifecycle, and small capital. The last one for small capital for \$250,000 or less, and then in your opening remarks, the breakdown in funding is as follows and there is \$500,000 for small capital. That's where I just need some clarification on that. This is leading me to not understanding it. Can you just clarify that for me? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the small capital, our budget that is requested is \$500,000 and the \$250,000 is a threshold that we're using to cover a various number of projects under small capital and the small capital projects vary and I would like President Mearns to further elaborate. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as the minister stated, on M-4, that just identifies that the small capital projects are projects that would be under \$250,000 and \$500,000 is the amount that we're asking for to cover off the small capital that we have throughout this upcoming year. That's where the differences in those numbers are. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Mearns. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying that for me. I just want to briefly make a comment on the regret that I have with an invitation that I made earlier this year before we did the 2023-24 capital estimates.

(interpretation) I really wanted to take you up to the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural Centre because there is an emergency matter that needs to be resolved there and it's going to take money to fix it. It was unfortunate that we had to delay that visit up there. I really

wanted to go and see that with you before we sat here, but I'm just saying that I regret it. Maybe it can come under the small capital projects. There is an emergency matter right now at Piquisilirivvik that needs to be dealt with soon.

It's not a question; it's just a comment. I'm just expressing my regret that we could not go visit Clyde River before this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. I think it does warrant a question if the minister is aware that there is an emergency situation at the facility in Clyde River and if there is an update that the minister can provide to the member, I think it would be valuable.
Minister.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the comment and the question. Nunavut Arctic College is not aware of the issue that was raised, so if the member would like to tell us, we will be happy to look into the matter and work to resolve it. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm sure that Ms. Killiktee and the minister can get together after the proceedings and have a discussion about this. (interpretation) Are you done, Ms. Killiktee? I'll go to the next name on my list. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were reviewing the Department of Education, the minister stated that the community learning centre in Coral Harbour will be demolished and a new one will be built. It's not written here in the capital estimates and I brought this up during last year's sitting. I still don't see it here. I would like to get an update on the status of the community learning centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. Nunavut Arctic College is working with the Department of Education and Community and Government Services for the CLC in Coral Harbour. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, it was going to be demolished and we don't know what the design of the building will look like and the budget has already been approved for the Department of Education. When will we see the design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The design of that CLC can be provided to the member. I would like to note that it was provided in the remarks to the standing

committee at the last page that I tabled to the Chair from the Department of Education. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm on the other standing committee, so I didn't see that design and that's why I was asking the question. When will the construction start? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The construction for that will start in with the Department of Education phase 1 and the department will go with putting down and renovating the school and they have a plan to go through the school and use the gymnasium and there will be classroom space in there, but the plan will also work to use a portable that will house and work to support the students for the interim of that project. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go to the next name on my list, I'm a little confused from the responses to Mr. Malliki. When a project comes forward, even though it's a shared project with the Department of Education, there would be a budget appropriated for it from Nunavut Arctic College's component for the CLC, even so far as the minister has provided a copy of the design or the floor plan. That means that work and money was invested into this project already. Does the minister have a year-to-date that has been expended on this project? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That information is under the Department of Education as it's a Department of Education capital project and a nice gesture to Nunavut Arctic College to incorporate a new CLC into the design and there is money appropriated to the project from the Department of Education for the CLC. We can provide that information through letter. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I appreciate that. In addition, Minister Gross, would it be fair to say that we will be expecting a supplementary appropriation under a capital appropriation this fiscal year to contribute to that project? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Not that I'm aware of. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'm sorry, Ms. Gross. I'm still a little confused with our procurement and our contracting processes. I do note that in the past, some departments and agencies did partner on projects, but when there are separate components to the structure that are independent like a CLC, there would be a budget appropriated for it. I understand the Minister of Education has been very kind to the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College in being generous, but we do have contracting procedures that we do have to follow. I

would appreciate a little bit more detail from the minister on how this is being done. Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Sakku School project in Coral Harbour switching over to the Department of Education, the project for the school includes the CLC, or community learning centre, a separate, stand-alone building right outside of the school. That project is going through several different phases.

I'm just trying to find the information on the particular details and I can't find them at this moment, but I would be happy to provide them through letter form. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Malliki)(interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do realize I jumped the cue a little bit and I apologize and appreciate Mr. Savikataaq's generosity on his time.

I just have a follow-up question. When the Minister of Education was before us talking about the school and replying to questions from Mr. Malliki, the Minister of Education wasn't able to provide much detail on the community learning centre because it was stated as a Nunavut Arctic College project, yet now we're hearing that it's part of the Department of Education's project. I'm very confused on who is actually in charge of this project, who is going to own the facility from a departmental or agency standpoint. I need some clarification on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To the question, I'm sorry that there's confusion. It is a complicated project because it's two departments that are working together. The funding is coming from the Department of Education. However, the Department of Education is working with Nunavut Arctic College for the design and for the build and is working to meet with representatives from the college, Education, Community and Government Services, and the team is planning to visit Coral Harbour to talk about the project.

I understand that there are logistics to work through and we hope to visit the community within the next month to work on those details, but I would like Ms. Price to further elaborate. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Price: My apologies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the follow-up question. Like the minister had mentioned, this project has been the result of work amongst the departments mentioned. This plan has been in the works for multiple years and included the previous government. As the minister stated, the funding for the project is currently under the Department of Education's budget. Specifications in terms

of what the building would look like and the requirements of the NAC section of this project, it has been developed through those meetings with the Department of Education and Community and Government Services. In terms of like building design, there is some separation in terms of funding. It is coming through the Department of Education. I hope that clarifies that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate that response, yet I'm still kind of confused. From the Minister of Education's opening comments, it just says that the design contract was awarded in 2019. It does mention a little bit in the substantiation sheet, but it speaks to it as a stand-alone CLC building where, again, when we look at assets under management from a Community and Government Services standpoint, there are differentiations by department or Crown agency.

I'm very confused and I'm hesitant to think that the full response would be able to be given today and I think a written correspondence to the committee is in order to really outline how this partnership and how this appropriation that we approved under the Department of Education when the Minister of Education was hesitant on answering questions on the community learning centre component of the building, so I'm very confused and I think written correspondence in the very short term would be needed by the committee. Thank you. It's just a comment and a request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do you have comments for that? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would be very happy to provide the comments and the answer to the questions that were asked about the Sakku School and community learning centre design as it's a pretty complex project, but we're happy to have both departments working with the other agency departments together for the build. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I go on to my question, I would just like to make a comment too. Mr. Chairman, I could understand your frustration, MLA Malliki's frustration. When we're looking at going through Education, when MLA Malliki asked about the project, the Minister of Education clearly stated, "This is a Nunavut Arctic College project; we can't comment on it." He waited until we got here to Nunavut Arctic College and when the member asked, you said, "Well, that's a Department of Education project; you would have to ask them." It is confusing and not one of the committee members should be getting a run-around like that. You should be prepared to be here and answer precise questions because we're here to approve budgets and in order to make an informed decision, we need all the correct and current information that there is.

Now that's out of the way, for the community learning centres, Arviat's is really old, it does not provide the service it needs to anymore, and it could be utilized more, but it is too small. I'll just ask the minister when the plan is to replace that with a more modern community learning centre to help the people of Arviat further their education and have a better chance at getting a job. Thank you.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. We appreciate and understand that we have several needs for community learning centres and we have several that are going through the preplanning phase. At this time the Arviat CLC is not in the docket, but we hope that we can work to renovating or fixing all of our CLCs as they are aging infrastructure and we do need to upgrade them as they are getting older. We will take his comment and use it further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When Nunavut Arctic College is going to replace a community learning centre, is the use rate also considered and not just age? Arviat's is both old and used a lot. What criteria are used to decide when it's time to replace a community learning centre? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. Nunavut Arctic College does not have a utilization rate. We do have people that go and inspect the buildings and a report is created for Nunavut Arctic College on the facilities. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would encourage the minister to look at the utilization rate. It would be a shame if we put a new community learning centre and it was barely used in the community, and I can assure the minister that the one in Arviat is used extensively and it should be replaced. I'm not a building expert, so I'm not sure if it's possible to expand it in an economical way. I'll put it that way, but the minister should really consider bumping that up a bit. Sometimes Arviat is the second biggest community and sometimes it's the third, so it's either two or three and it's vital and it's important to be there. The minister should put in next year's budget the planning and design for Arviat's CLC. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for his comment. I visited Arviat and been to their CLC and I do know that with the needs of the community, it would be great for Arviat to have a more expanded CLC. Hopefully in the near future,

it can come down the line, but I can't make any promises to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In your opening remarks, minister, the college's largest capital request is for ongoing lifecycle. This funding allows the college to maximize the life and use of its facilities through repairs and replacement.

Now, I would like to ask you a question in regard to the Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre. It's just a one-classroom building. There is no place to store any materials. There is the teachers' office. If they wanted to do some programming, they have to do it one session at a time. I was just wondering if your capital planner ever went to the community of Chesterfield Inlet and determined what next steps there would be for the assessment of the community learning centre in Chesterfield Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. On the community learning centre for Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut Arctic College capital planner planned to visit Chesterfield Inlet, but due to personal reasons, the capital planner had to cancel that trip. The capital planner made it to Rankin Inlet and had to cancel the Chesterfield Inlet portion. However, the capital planner plans to visit Chesterfield Inlet in this month, November, or December. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister keep me informed of when the capital planner plans to go to Chesterfield Inlet and in which month so that I would be able to escort him there...

>>*Laughter*

...and show him Arctic College? It's a small community, I realize that, but not everyone in the community would want to go to a different community to take programming like teachers' programming. Other communities are taking that program, but not Chesterfield Inlet.

Are there any plans in the near future due to the size of the one-classroom Nunavut Arctic College in Chesterfield Inlet? Are there any plans to go into the design or for future, like in the next year or so that they would be able to get a new Arctic College and/or an expansion? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. The Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre is in the planning phase and...sorry. We do bring the request forward and there is capital project substantiation for the project. We do bring those forward. However, there are many projects that are also competing for the same funding, so that project hasn't been identified as one to go forward. However, we do take his comments and are noting them. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make this comment. The building in Kugluktuk used by Arctic College is still in good condition. However, they continue to experience a lack of teachers or an instructor there. Now, there are many younger women, and like other Nunavut communities, young women who have had children and they have to look after their families. They would prefer not to leave their community to others, to take courses. There is always a long list when courses are offered, but due to the lack of an instructor, Arctic College hardly offers courses locally. I wanted to report that shortage and ask if there will be an instructor coming to the community. I just wanted to speak to that issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anavilok. (interpretation ends) Minister Gross, it's kind of operational, but I'll let it go.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the Kugluktuk CLC, the NTEP program was offered in the community for this fall, but there were little to no applicants, so the program didn't proceed to go forward. We have hired an adult basic educator and in January we will be starting a program there for Kugluktuk and applications are out as we speak. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Next name on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister Gross, (interpretation ends) president and (interpretation) your officials. My first question is: (interpretation ends) what is the current policy with respect to including child care space in any new renovated community learning centres or replacement community learning centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. We're always open to daycare facilities. However, we don't have any coming up in the near future. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak: Just a comment that a lot of our constituents who are students have been requesting for more daycare, if you could take that note. In the smaller communities we all know that child care could be one of the successes for our students. (interpretation) Does that make sense?

(interpretation ends) Another question is, government documentation indicates that information technology funding being requested for 2023-24 will be used to enhance the college's wireless infrastructure across the territory. Will this technology be upgraded in all of Nunavut's community learning centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The community learning centres, we have five that will see improvements with this funding. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Which communities are getting their improvements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The five buildings will be our three campuses, the Piqusilirivvik in Clyde River, and the Arviat CLC. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): You may know that the smaller communities are unable to use Galaxy. They're not using it at all. That's for your information. Thank you. I'm done.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Nutarak. (interpretation ends) That was just a comment. Next person on my list is Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister, Jackie, and Rebecca. You had indicated that there are communities in the preplanning phase for a new community learning centre. Which communities are on the top list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The projects that are in the planning phase that have been brought forward for consideration are Chesterfield Inlet CLC, Gjoa Haven CLC, Naujaat CLC, and Sanikiluaq CLC. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have any more questions on that. I just want you to know that we will be looking forward to the community learning centre in Sanikiluaq. It consists of one classroom.

Within the (interpretation ends) *Katujjiluta* mandate, reinvesting in education (interpretation) is a priority of our government. I'll stop there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do you have comments for that, Minister Gross?

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Due to technical difficulty, we missed the opening part of what the member had stated. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Qavvik, can you reiterate your comments?

Mr. Qavvik: What did I say?

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) It's in the *Katujjiluta* mandate, (interpretation ends) reinvesting in education. Now that you have indicated that Sanikiluaq would be in preplanning phase, during our winter sitting, I was ambitious to let the members know where the community learning centre came to existence. It's older than my parents. It was built in 1965, transported to Sanikiluaq all the way from 90 kilometres off of Sanikiluaq, so it has exceeded its life expectancy for that building. I recommend Sanikiluaq to be on the top list for a capital plan for consideration for a community learning centre. (interpretation) Thank you. I hope I was understandable.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You were understandable. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for his comment. We do take those as notes. Nunavut Arctic College is always happy to work on expanding our community learning centres and we look forward to projects such as these to enhance our education and reinvest in education, as in the mandate. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for questions. (interpretation ends) Go to page M-3. \$2,300,000. (interpretation) Total Capital Expenditures. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Go to page M-2. \$3,300,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Gross, please have your closing comments.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to everyone for their questions. We will work to clarify the answers for the Sakku School and community learning centre. I thank everybody for being here and watching us all. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Also, I want to thank the entire department, the Nunavut Arctic College staff. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. George Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion to report progress.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor and it's not debatable. Those in favour. Those against. It's defeated, so we will continue. It's defeated, so we will continue to the next department. We will take a five-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:09 and resumed at 17:19*

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call the committee back to order. I would like to ask Minister Nakashuk: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Yes, please.

Chairman: 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 Nakashuk, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Yvonne Niego, my Deputy Minister, and to my left is Dwayton Tonge, (interpretation ends) Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates for the Department of Family Services to the Committee of the Whole.

The Department of Family Services is requesting a total of \$1.9 million in capital funding for 2023-24. Small capital funding of \$900,000 will be used to address office space improvements and replacement of old vehicles, furniture, and equipment across the territory. The remaining \$1 million will be used to boost capital projects initiated by local social-wellness focused not-for-profit organizations working to address core operation gaps.

Not-for-profit organizations have expressed challenges in finding office and programming space, as well as the need for staff housing for recruitment and retention. Funding agreements would complement these efforts to address these challenges with contributions to help with building purchases, improvements, and other capital needs. Not-for-profit organizations would be eligible to apply for funding if their work aligns with the Department of Family Services' mandate and contributes to the outcomes of *The Makimaniq Plan*, which includes food security, life skills, training, healing and well-being, family safety, and homelessness. Eligible maximum funding thresholds will be established for start-up growing and established not-for-profits.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality services to Nunavummiut. This request is critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of program service delivery in communities across Nunavut. It aligns with our priorities to strengthen family wellness and community capacity. I look forward to your on-going support as we work to better serve communities across the territory. I welcome any questions or comments that the members may have as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister and your guests. I guess I have to take this opportunity now to say "happy birthday" to Bubba Seané Tiu-Tiu d'Argencourt-Printup. I hope you are having a great day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Sorry, I'll slow down.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services' proposed capital estimates for 2023-24 include a small capital budget for projects, including repairs, renovations, and replacement of equipment, including vehicles. Members greatly appreciated receiving updated details on the department's proposed expenditures not only for the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year but also for the five-year period of the capital plan.

The standing committee had a number of questions with respect to the department's new budget request of \$1 million for a Not-For-Profit Capital Fund and appreciated receiving correspondence with further detail on how the department plans to disburse the funding with respect to eligibility criteria, levels of funding, and approval authorities.

Recognizing that the department itself has no capital plans for building additional infrastructure across the territory and instead works to encourage community-based entities or municipal organizations to undertake such planning themselves, the committee supports the intent and purpose of this program. However, the committee did express concern that a specific policy for disbursement of these funds had not been finalized prior to members being asked to vote to approve the requested budget.

Members encourage the department to develop a framework which demonstrates how the Not-For-Profit Capital Fund coordinates with such programs as its shelter programs and poverty reduction programs which are disbursed through its operations and maintenance budget to ensure that funding is distributed equitably and fairly amongst organizations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Maybe it's not a general comment, but I would just like to get a clarification on one of the substantiation sheets before we go into our lines of questioning. On page 2 of 8 in the other small capital lifecycle etcetera, in the business case summary, in the second paragraph it speaks to an amount of \$700,000 that was previously approved for fiscal 2023-24. I would just like to get clarification on whether that is a typo or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. The approved items of last year were approved last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any general comments? No. So go to page D-3. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a typo. The \$700,000 says it was approved in 2023-24. It should read 2022-23. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. General comments. I don't believe there are any more general comments. Go to page D-3. Family Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1.9 million. Questions. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, welcome minister and team. Minister, when Uquutaq Society opened its shelter facility in Iqaluit to provide shelter beds as well as transitional housing beds, the society's representatives indicated that there would be fewer shelter beds available in the city due to the closure of the former men's shelter. How has the department been working to ensure that there are buildings with adequate shelter beds available in Iqaluit for those who are homeless, especially during the cold winter months ahead? I'm referring to all people who are experiencing homelessness; not just the men that are served by Uquutaq, but women, as well as children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. We have ongoing dialogue regarding the Uquutaq Society. There used to be a larger facility and more beds available. The space we are utilizing now is larger, but it has fewer beds because of the way it was constructed. The Department of Family Services deals with matters involving emergencies and they look for other places where they can accommodate homeless people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new building that was constructed by Uquutaq doesn't have fewer beds because of the construction. It has fewer beds available because of a management decision to stop allowing people to sleep on the floor, and in hallways, and in the kitchen on cots.

That is for the safety of the individuals who are using the shelter, as well as for the staff, of course. There are many safety issues that that can create, whether it is air quality or concerns regarding fire and things like that.

One of the issues that many people face, especially at this time of year, is that the shelters and specifically Uquutaq, does have to shut down and close its doors early in the morning, and so the individuals that avail themselves of their services are asked to leave. I know that there are some days when there is an extreme cold weather warning when the shelter does in fact stay open for the safety of their clients. However, our idea of extreme cold weather is very much different from what the reality of being out in cold weather is, and even if it's -10, if you have nowhere to go inside that is safe, and if you don't have proper clothing, the chances of being impacted by that cold is higher.

So there is a lack of space available for people to go to during the day, and I'm wondering if the Not-for Profit Capital Fund is meant to address issues like that. I appreciate the letter that was sent to the standing committee on October 13 that lays out the three levels of eligibility:

“1. Established organizations are eligible up to \$500,000 to be considered, however, the organization has to have existed for a minimum of five years and have developed a strategic plan;

2. \$250,000; The organization has to have existed for a minimum of two years; and

3. A start-up organization is eligible \$100,000.”

I’m wondering how the department came to those thresholds. I think some of it naturally makes sense. However, I’m worried that there are some new organizations, like the not-for-profit group that has gotten together that might not be able to access funding like this if they wanted to and whether or not there is flexibility.

I know from experience, when I was at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, organizations had to be established or incorporated for at least a year to access the funds, and that put a lot of Inuit communities out of the capacity to access funds.

So if you could talk to us about that and the flexibility and whether or not this could ensure that community groups could start a day shelter that services those people that are very much underserved in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): We had a meeting with Uqutaq this past week and we wanted to hear their concerns and needs. We provide funding to the shelters and they try not to turn anybody away. When seeking shelter during blizzards, there have been individuals who had no place to go, but they were able to utilize those shelters and there are emergency cases where they go over the capacity limits in order to provide safe shelters for the people in need, following the contract that they had signed.

Last year, through Family Services, we had outreach workers for the homeless. They saw 65 clients, including women, men, and families. \$51,000 in emergency funds was provided through our department. The Kitikmeot received \$22,000 in emergency funds, \$15,000 in the Kivalliq, and \$14,000 in the Baffin. Also, (interpretation ends) emergency accommodations, (interpretation ends) or flights were provided by Family Services in the amount of \$34,000. \$23,000 was the amount for the Kitikmeot, \$3,800 in the Kivalliq, and \$7,000 in the Baffin region. Those amounts were for emergency cases last year.

With regard to your question about the criteria set out for the shelters, depending on their longevity, there are more shelters provided here in Iqaluit and there are quite a few communities that don’t have a shelter at all. They can be provided financial support if they are open for a number of cases and for new entities, even if there isn’t a shelter, the hamlet can also request funds through this program, should they agree. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate hearing that last bit, that hamlets can also access this fund. In a lot of communities we know that the department does work to assist communities to access such buildings as surplus government facilities or empty housing units to provide safe shelters, youth homes, or other spaces to support Nunavut's most vulnerable residents.

You talked a little bit about the capital fund being able to be used to help community-based groups establish local shelters or safe homes. I'm not sure if you did say safe homes. I'm wondering if there is part of an implementation plan for the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* that helps communities to also create safe homes as well as to create temporary housing for people who are removed from their homes due to abuse by an emergency protection or a peace bond related to that *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which is there as a measure to help break the cycle of violence in some homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* that the member is talking about is not under Family Services. It's under Justice, but we have to follow it. That's why I said that workers at Family Services try to decide how to use the money to ensure that people get into danger, to create safe shelters. We have to follow that policy as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Thank you, minister. I know that the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* does not fall directly under Family Services. However, I know that the spirit of the act, having been involved in its creation and having been involved in the preliminary implementation plan, that the spirit of that whole and the development of the family abuse intervention implementation plan was that once for all that government departments would work together to break the cycle of violence. That's why I keep bringing it up in a forum like this, because I want to see departments work together, because that's what it takes. Everybody has a role to play. I guess I'll ask how many safe shelters are currently operating across Nunavut's communities, and are there any plans to open any new in 2023-24? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for reminding us that we always all have to work together, especially when different aspects of it are held by different departments. We follow the policies and see how else we can help. We can't turn away people that ask for help or need help, so that's why we end up asking for more money to help more people.

The five emergency shelters and the Sivummut house transitional housing, places like that in Iqaluit. The three are: in Iqaluit, Uquutaq low barrier shelter, and Cambridge Bay Umingmak Men's Shelter, and the Kitikmeot Friendship Society.

Also, the operations of those facilities, we have contributed a total of \$5.3 million for the operations of those places. During the years of COVID-19, we presented them with cabin-building money and we provided, was it \$60,000, to be able to build shacks during the COVID-19 period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans to open any shelters for children and youth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Shelters like that are usually created by non-profit organizations, and if a community wants to do that, we want to hear from them. We are not the initiator of these buildings. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I wonder, minister, if you could talk to us about whether or not your team have been in conversation with the Department of Health, or anybody who might be able to give some advice or some thought into managed alcohol programs?

It's my understanding that there is at least one organization that is developing their knowledge on managed alcohol programs right now and with the potential to bring forward a proposal for a managed alcohol program in Iqaluit. I know that kind of blurs the line about shelters and safe spaces, however, what we know is that a lot of the people that are using shelter space are struggling with alcohol addiction, and that's why it's so important to continue to fund low-barrier shelters. That's kind of a transition, that's the possibility of a transition from projects that are low barrier.

I'm not asking for any commitments or anything, just knowledge on whether or not you know that this could possibly be coming to the GN for action on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not a capital question, it's more along the lines of operational matters, nonetheless, the shelters that house people in those circumstances, are usually funded by either the Department of Health or the Department of Family Services, and they look for alternatives to try to offer more support services.

We are deliberating on shared responsibilities such as the (interpretation ends) Family resource workers (interpretation) as they are called, have been hired in some of the communities in Nunavut, related to Embrace Life initiatives are tasked with offering local programs to strengthen mental health and wellness initiatives.

There are workers who perform wellness initiatives locally and I could speak in more detail on these issues. However, the Department of Health also provides announcements in this vein. In this vein, they are called (interpretation ends) community health representatives (interpretation) and under the Department of Justice, communities can request funding for alcohol and substance abuse support initiatives, so there are programs like that available too, at least that I know of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the department often requests funds through its small capital budget for tenant improvement costs to make locations suitable for program delivery or to create new office spaces. What specific types of renovations are most often necessary to make office locations suitable for Family Services programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question on that matter. Can you explain which you are asking about, are you asking about the \$1 million ask or are you just asking generally about our department? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister is seeking for clarification. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just generally, whenever a new space is allocated or...it's been a long day, my words aren't coming to me. Whenever Family Services moves into a new facility or a new office space, what are the typical types of renovations that are needed to meet the needs of Family Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. The offices that we use everywhere, even though in Iqaluit or the smaller communities whenever they're moving to a new office, we always have to review them first and see how many positions we will have and what sort of office divisions there are within the building and try to get all their equipment ready. Sometimes, when there is a lack of office space, and this problem usually comes up for Family Services, we want to make the furniture child friendly. Whenever there is going to be a family coming to meetings they usually have a lack of space for those things, family meetings.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask that question, and I'm sure every office space gets utilized at different levels and different wear and tear, yet when I look at page 7 of 8 in the substantiation sheet, appendix two, Community Scope, Family Services, 2023-28, small capital, under the renovation sections, it has Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kugluktuk, all at \$45,000 and then Whale Cove at \$40,000. I find it hard to comprehend that every facility would need the exact same renovations done at the same time, so I'm anticipating that there's different scopes of work from each facility, and I'm just wondering such a standard amount seems to be budgeted per facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. If it's okay with you, I would like our finance person to respond to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Proceed, please.

Mr. Tonge: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These amounts are not necessarily for specific projects. The amounts are just allocations that we do to the different various communities and they are mainly intended for renovations throughout the year and upkeep of the buildings. We've come across instances where some of our office spaces do require some renovations and some minor improvements. We try to make an allocation for each community every year to allow for these renovations. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I do appreciate the response and the simplicity of it, there are, I'm sure, different assessment levels of different facilities that need... you know, some might need \$70,000 worth of work and one might need \$20,000 worth of work. I will leave that alone, but I just want to maybe put that out there for future that there might be a little bit more work put into the justification of the amounts.

I'm going to switch gears. Mr. Chairman, the departments 2023-24 capital estimates budget for small capital includes 4 vehicles. Information in the substantiation sheet, page 3, indicates that its vehicles are used to visit clients, transport children to and from school, and visit children in care. This differs quite dramatically from a number of concerns that have been raised in this House over the year of health centre staff not being able to use health centre vehicles to transport patients or clients, unless under an extreme emergency.

What specific policies are in place with respect to the use of departmental vehicles to allow members of the general public to be passengers in those vehicles? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickee. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Under Family Services, where there are concerns, and there is no other avenue if they are in a dangerous situation, then that is how that is.

Just to clarify, if they want help from Family Services, (interpretation) they become under the care of the department, (interpretation) so they have all rights in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For all other, that I know of, other than Family Services so far, the liability insurance makes it so that it is very high risk if a member of the general public would be, so that is why it's not allowed due to our vehicle policy under Community and Government Services.

I would just like to get a clarification on what additional insurance, or what additional policies have been developed to allow Family Services to be able to allow their clients to be able to accept rides in government vehicles? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I would like Deputy Minister Niego to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently, prior to Family Services being separated from Health and Social Services, there was a, I forget the title, *Health Administration Act* that covered off liability. It's very vague when it comes to the social services side, which we would have been covered under. However, the legislation is very outdated. It is currently being reviewed and it is most likely that a new piece of legislation will cover off social services; particularly family wellness, and we will keep an eye on the vehicle passenger aspect as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask is simply just for liability of the Government of Nunavut if an accident were to occur and a client is in that vehicle, then the Government of Nunavut could be considered liability and that, which could cause a very complicated matter. I will leave it at that, but I will expect the department to provide some further information to the committee to outline specifically where and how that is authorized.

I just have another quick question. Information provided by the Minister of Community and Government Services indicated that for wellness hub projects for the Department of Family Services have been included in the government's planning envelope. What kinds of services are expected to be delivered at the wellness hubs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you and thank you for asking that question. I am grateful that in our final round we were approved for four communities where we have developed plans for this to proceed: Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and Kinngait. Now, we commenced these plans with the hamlets or rather the communities around the middle of January up to February to determine what facilities the communities would want to establish as part of these (interpretation ends) community hubs (interpretation) and the communities would be surveyed about potential facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for questions. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I want further clarification. In regard to what was asked earlier by my colleague about the \$1 million allocation for capital, you mentioned that the hamlet can request for their community.

Following that, when children are taken to become wards of the state, when the procedures are followed, does this mean that people who own their own homes are designated as foster parents, can we request through the hamlet to improve this status of their home. Can they request funding for building an extra room for this purpose? Is my question understandable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. The Department of Family Services allocates funds for foster parents or overnight stewards during emergencies, and applicants for foster parenthood have their houses inspected, to ensure their resources can accommodate the extra needs, like a spare room, if the home is habitable, if it is safe and whether it is child friendly.

This is outlined in a list of required resources and assets which are followed procedurally, room for the child and these funds are not set for those kinds of capital outlays, as these funds are for non-commercial spaces, or for shelters as past administrators have stated that they lack office space for local employees or even an office or to enlarge existing space in the house, which would increase capacity based on their line of work.

This is how this proposal would be laid out, at least from what I have been briefed on. That is the purpose. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask this question. (interpretation ends) In some communities the Department of Family Services continues to share space with the Department of Health. In which communities does the lack of adequate or suitable office space impact the delivery of services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that good question. We are conducting that in the majority of the communities now, but our lack of office space has led us to work exclusively with the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services. When the divisions became separated, we had to fund the purchase of our own vehicles and to look at office space and this is still ongoing to date, due to becoming a stand-alone department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): This will be my last question. With respect to office space, as the Department of Family Services, do you envision in the future of having your own separate building perhaps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are unable to do this solely on our own, and we need to collaborate with the Department of Community and Government Services, as their mandate is dealing with government office space allocations. We have always worked with CG&S when dealing with office space requirements, both in terms of searching for office space and getting a leased office space for our usage.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for questions once again. (interpretation ends) Go to page D-3. Total Expenditures. Family Services. \$1,900,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page D-2. \$1,900,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate members for approving our budget appropriations, and I especially thank our officials who work tirelessly out of their offices to ensure life is easier for Nunavummiut. As well, although we are challenged with limitations in acquiring office spaces or in creating essential initiatives, there are barriers we all run into these approved funds will have tangible effects on residents, especially to our communities who continue to express the need for more services to support their residents. I thank you all and have a great evening.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I'll try this again. Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor that is not debatable. All those in favour. Please raise your hands; I want to count. All those who didn't vote or against.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is carried. 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 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has considered Bill 10 and would like to report progress and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. 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 the Standing Committee on Oversight meets at 9 a.m. on Monday in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 7:

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
 - Motion 13 – 6(2)
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
 - Bill 11
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) To my colleagues, I hope that you will all get a good rest, as we had a productive meeting today and you proved your dedication as representatives. As well, to our presenters today and the witnesses, I hope you rest well

from this long meeting.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) ...as well as our pages...

>>*Applause*

...and our staff at the Legislative Assembly.

>>*Applause*

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 6(2), this House stands adjourned until Monday, November 7, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11*

