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Tuesday, October 24, 2023

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak

(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

Hon. Joelle Kaerner

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Karen Nutarak

(Tununiq)

Hon. Daniel Qavvik

(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok

(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs

Mary Killiktee

(Uqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joanna Quassa

(Aggu)

Bobby Anavilok

(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq

(Netsilik)

Hon. Pamela Gross

(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Seniors

Adam Lightstone

(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Alexander Sammurtok

(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Joe Savikataaq

(Arviat South)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

George Hickes

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Solomon Malliki

(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Craig Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Joanasie

(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Good morning. Let us pray.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, my colleagues. We will be supporting the residents of our communities today.

Speaker's Statement

(interpretation ends) Before I go to Item 2, I would like to congratulate my own constituent who is the newly elected mayor, Mr. Raymond Kamookak, who has been an SAO before and also has been in other committees as well in the community.

I would also like to thank the outgoing mayor and thank her for all her hard work for the community of Gjoa Haven, Ms. Megan Porter. She is a very young

lady, so there's always another time to try again. Thank you.

>>Applause

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 283 – 6(2):
Celebrating Social Work
Programs**

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, fall signals the start of a new academic year for Nunavut Arctic College. I would like to welcome all students starting a new program or continuing with college programs across the territory.

Today I would like to recognize the second cohort of the Bachelor of Social Work Program, who began their studies this past August. Six full-time students and one part-time student make up this cohort, with students coming from Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, and Arviat. Students in this cohort will take ten courses with visiting professors from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, and then complete a 12-week practicum with various agencies across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the college's Bachelor of Social Work Program is open to students who have successfully completed the college's Social Service Worker Program. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to confirm this diploma program is being

offered in Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit this current academic year.

Nunavut Arctic College recognizes the territory's need for highly qualified and trained staff to work on the frontlines with individuals and families in need. The college's range of social work programs provides a robust training opportunity to prepare students for the social work field.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to share that for individuals currently working with the Department of Family Services in frontline, client centred roles, you are eligible to take courses offered under the Family Resources Worker Program. The Family Resource Worker Program is made up of first year courses from the Social Service Worker Program, and if employees are successful in these courses, credits are issued and recognized in the diploma program. Interested employees of Family Services are encouraged to discuss this opportunity with their respective supervisors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 284 – 6(2):
Mental Health Support**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education is thankful that this academic school year, all Nunavut schools will now have access to mental health support services.

Mr. Speaker, the enhanced budget that this House passed this winter session enabled the Department of Education to

expand this critical service to be available to all students across all schools.

>> *Applause*

Parents and our school community can now feel reassured that any student needing mental health support can access resources designed to support their well-being and success.

Working collaboratively with school staff and parents, our mental health service providers can offer a range of virtual and in-person support and services with strategies tailored to individual students, classrooms, and other school needs.

Mr. Speaker, the expansion of this service aligns with our other existing education support services, such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech-language therapy. Through these services, we support our youth and create a clear pathway for them to access high-quality services from trained professionals at times of need.

Mr. Speaker, the department is proud to continue our efforts to build safe, caring and inclusive school environments that contribute to overall student well-being, learning, and future success. I want to thank my colleagues in this House for supporting this valuable work. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 285 – 6(2):
Aqqusariaq Tundra Turning**

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

Mr. Speaker, we had a momentous occasion happen in August: the Aqqusariaq Tundra Turning ceremony in Iqaluit. The ceremony marked the start of construction of Nunavut's new mental health and addictions facility right here in territory.

(interpretation ends) Mental health and addictions pose huge challenges to many Nunavummiut throughout their lives. The establishment of Aqqusariaq will provide a much-needed ray of hope and help. It will enable those seeking mental health and addictions support to access treatment within Nunavut, reducing the need to travel south for care.

I was happy to be joined by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Vice-President Paul Irngaut, Indigenous Services Canada Minister Patty Hajdu, Minister Joanasie, Minister Nakashuk, and other dignitaries at the tundra turning. We have built a strong tripartite partnership to get to construction and plan to continue the partnership approach through to the opening and operation of Aqqusariaq. It will serve as a hub for Inuit-led treatment opportunities that are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and closer to home. The facility will host a range of activities, including on-the-land healing camps, allowing Nunavummiut to reconnect with the land and traditional Inuit practices. By combining evidence-based treatments with culturally grounded initiatives, we

plan to support healing and empowerment.

Construction at the build site is underway with substantial completion set for December 2025. As work at site progresses, the Aqqusariaq Development Team is building the programs side with a group of Nunavummiut subject matter experts.

Health remains steadfast in our commitment to fostering a nurturing environment for mental health and addictions care. By working hand in hand with our partners, we can build a brighter future for Nunavummiut and offer enhanced access, wraparound supports, and cultural relevance within our mental health and addictions services in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 286 – 6(2): Legal
Team of the Year Award 2023**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Legal and Constitutional Law Division of the Department of Justice has been awarded the 2023 Legal Team of the Year by the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association. This division won from a field of 70 nominated legal teams, ranging from large corporations to innovative start-ups. It is the first time that a government legal department has been awarded this national honour.

The Legal Team of the Year Award recognizes a legal team that has achieved extraordinary outcomes among in-house legal departments across Canada. This award recognizes the unique challenges and successes faced by these legal teams.

The Legal and Constitutional Law Division provides legal services to the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Arctic College. Its lawyers are a part of every major initiative in the government, including environmental assessments, major infrastructure procurement and construction, and representing the government before courts and tribunals. This division also plays a critical role in the government's response to emergencies.

This award recognizes the efforts of the entire Legal and Constitutional Law Division team and their dedicated service to the Government of Nunavut, in the true spirit of *Piliriqatigiinniq*, working together for a common cause.

This is a great honour for the Department of Justice and we are very proud of our legal team. Congratulations, Legal Constitutional Law Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 287 – 6(2):
Implementation of Matrix
Software System**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. Good afternoon. I also say "good afternoon" to the people of Nunavut. I would first like to say that we are proud of those who were newly elected in the communities. I am also proud of the new Mayor of Pangnirtung, Lynn Mike, as well as the newly elected council members.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide an update on the Department of Family Services' implementation of the Family Wellness Integrated Case Management System.

The Auditor General's report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut identified the department's ineffective information management as a primary root cause for shortcomings in the delivery of services. The department is committed to correcting this using the Matrix solution. Matrix aims to enhance compliance with standards, providing community social services workers with access to information they require to carry out their duties. Access to reliable, accurate and up-to-date information in a centralized system is essential for knowledge continuity, data collection, and informed decision-making. This solution aligns with the Auditor General's recommendations.

The department is currently finalizing the user training phase. The scheduled go-live date is set for November 30, 2023. This initiative represents a significant step forward in the provision of child and family services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 288 – 6(2):
Integrated Community
Sustainability Plans**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to reinforce the importance of coordination and collaboration between my department and the non-tax-based communities of Nunavut that we support.

Mr. Speaker, integrated community sustainability plans are developed, reviewed, and revised annually by municipal councils to prioritize capital priorities of each community. These plans are not only helpful by providing direct inputs for the Government of Nunavut process of capital planning for municipal infrastructure, but they also support municipal applications for a variety of capital programs provided by my departments, including:

- Municipal Capital Block Funding
- Community Small Projects Fund
- Municipal Granular Crushing Equipment Program
- Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund
- Municipal Parking Garage Program

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is vital for municipalities to maximize their opportunities for capital funding and take the time and ensure their capital priorities are updated and programs they apply to under Community and Government Services are included as part of their 2023-24 Integrated

Community Sustainability Plan submissions.

To accommodate municipal elections across the territory, and congratulations to all the new mayors, returning mayors, as well as their council members, and the potential changes in local governments, the deadline for integrated community sustainability plan submissions for the 2023-24 fiscal year is December 15, 2023.

My department's Community Infrastructure divisional staff will be reaching out to municipalities and will be available to answer questions regarding integrated community sustainability plan preparation and submission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 289 – 6(2):
Dolphin and Union Survey**

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me a second time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on a research program my department is leading to monitor the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

Mr. Speaker, the planning phase of the 2023 Dolphin and Union caribou herd abundance survey is nearing completion. Our survey teams began the survey yesterday, Monday, October 23, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the Dolphin and Union caribou herd has experienced a dramatic

decline. This decline is based on the 2020 survey, which estimated the population at around 3,851 caribou. As a result of the 2020 survey and in response to the population decline, a total allowable harvest of 105 caribou came into force in January 2021.

Mr. Speaker, it is through our guiding principle and commitment of *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq* that my department, with the collaborative work and support from the hunters and trappers organization, co-management partners, and biologists that we can monitor the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

Mr. Speaker, through this collective work, we can collaboratively seek solutions to recover the Dolphin and Union caribou population back to a level of viability and abundance. Such caribou surveys will only enhance and support our communities' subsistence needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Before I go to Mr. Hickes, please note that Mr. Simailak, Member for Baker Lake, will not be in today.

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 383 – 6(2): City of Iqaluit Election Results

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every one of us in this room remembers that defining moment when we decided to put our names on a ballot to run for

office, whether it be municipal, territorial, federal, or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, the next month after that, it is the daily grind of making sure that we are justifying to potential constituents why they should choose us. I would like to take this moment to reflect on how we all come to this House through an election and through the support of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, there were municipal elections held yesterday across the territory, and I would like to be one of the first to publicly recognize and congratulate our new, no-longer acting mayor, but full-time Mayor, Mr. Solomon Awa. I would also like to thank Vincent and Lily for putting in their names for competition.

I would also like to congratulate our new municipal council. They are:

- Kim Smith
- Romeyn Stevenson
- Kyle Sheppard
- Sam Tilley
- Harry Flaherty
- Simon Nattaq
- Methuselah Kunuk
- Jack Anawak

Mr. Speaker, I'm very excited to see a lot of diversity in that council and I look forward to the work that they are going to accomplish. I would also like to take the time to recognize Lewis, Swany, Matthew, Gabriel, Camilius, and [Daniel] for putting their names forward for service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Arviat South, Mr.
Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 384 – 6(2):
Arviat Municipal Election Results**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat.

I would also like to talk about the Nunavut-wide elections, including the election in Arviat for council and mayor. The mayor was re-elected, and I am very pleased to congratulate Joe Jr. Savikataaq. It's a good name.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to congratulate the councillors:

- Alex Ishalook
- Gordy Kidlapik
- Jimmy Main
- Gleason Appahuak
- David Kuksuk
- Nathan Caskey
- Jason Gibbons
- Mike Gibbons

I would also like to thank the other candidates who didn't get elected. I look forward to the coming years where we will be working together. I thank the hamlet, and congratulations once again. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 385 – 6(2): Table
Tennis Players from Pond Inlet**

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate Joshua Arreak, of Pond Inlet, for being re-elected as mayor.

Mr. Speaker, today I would also like to congratulate the young people who came here to compete in the ping pong tournament. They all received medals in this during the event.

First of all, for the 14 and under category under doubles, these two partners received a medal for second place; Nicholas Shappa and Alan Nutarak. Also, Joshua Shappa, in the category of 17 and under, placed third in the singles. Joshua Shappa and Nicholas Kilukishak placed third in the doubles category of 17 and under, winning bronze.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the coach, Tad Kilukishak. He was able to accompany the athletes to this tournament here in Iqaluit. I would like to express my immense pride in their accomplishments and I ask my colleagues to join in celebrating their success here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Member's Statement 386 – 6(2):
Stranded Medical Travellers**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents and people of Nunavut. I would also like to congratulate the

mayor and the councillors who were elected.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise a concern communicated to me by a constituent who was stranded in Rankin Inlet while on medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, there have been far too many situations where medical travel client escorts get stranded in Rankin on their way to or from Winnipeg. It is to my understanding that in the last two months, more than ten patients have cancelled important medical appointments because there was nowhere for them to stay in Rankin Inlet.

Recently, while I was at the Rankin airport, I met a group of travellers who tried taking off to return home, but had to come back due to weather. They called medical travel to find out what to do and were told to find their own accommodation. This is very upsetting; they deserve better care.

Mr. Speaker, the regional health centre in Rankin Inlet is offering more service these days, including dental services and more clients are getting appointments in Rankin Inlet, as well as travelling through to Winnipeg. Some appointments may have been very important for the person's health, but people are reluctant to travel because they worry about getting stranded.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that our government seriously considers setting up a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Travellers who are stranded would have somewhere to go to wait for their flight. Medical appointments would be more secure, medical clients would be able to travel without worrying about where

they will stay or be told to find their own accommodations. At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 387 – 6(2):
Election Results in Rankin Inlet
and Chesterfield Inlet**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, to the people of Rankin and Chesterfield Inlet. We had Nunavut-wide elections last night and I would also like to congratulate, in Rankin Inlet, re-elected mayor, Harry Towtongie, and councillors Mike Shouldice, Chris Eccles, Levi Curley, David Jr. Kakuktinniq, Danny Kowmuk, Art Sateana, and Martha Hickes.

Elected to the district education authority are: Sheila Schweder, Ford Widrig, Mike Osmond, Margaret Okatsiak.

In Chesterfield Inlet, Simeonie Sammurtok was elected as mayor, and the acclaimed council members are: Gaetano Scala, Yvonne Bedford, Edward Kalluk, Dorian Sammurtok, Venissa Mimialik, Charles Issaluk, Elizabeth Ippiak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Member's Statement 388 – 6(2):
Happy Retirement to Adam
Kredjunark**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I do my member's statement, I want to congratulate Lenning Pangijik of Taloyoak, our newly elected mayor, and I also wanted to thank Charles Pizzolyall for your time as mayor. I wanted to congratulate Teddy Upsaktaun of Kugaaruk for your acclamation, and also to the councillors for your acclamation. I'll be happy to work with you all. I have two more years, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to acknowledge that on the date and month of July, 2023, my constituent, Adam Kredjunark, retired as a volunteer firefighter, who had volunteered 28 years of his time to the Hamlet of Kugaaruk fire department, with three years of being a fire chief.

Mr. Speaker, I believe unsung heroes have to be acknowledged greatly in the House of Mr. Speaker, and my hat is off to Adam Kredjunark who volunteered 28 years of his time, and I thank him greatly. Also, I would like to wish my constituent, James Eetoolook, a "happy birthday," who is a champion in many books when it comes to politics, and has been an inspiration to me. Happy birthday, uncle James.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to pay tribute to my constituents Adam Kredjunark and James Eetoolook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 389 – 6(2):
Igloolik Municipal Election
Results**

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my statement, I would my fellow community members of Igloolik, I'll have you all in my thoughts are laying to rest a loved one this afternoon. Have a good day.

Igloolik also held elections. I would first like to thank the former mayor, Erasmus Ivvalu. I would like to say, (interpretation ends) for the past month, it has been a battle of Georges in Igloolik.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) The two Georges were running for the same seat and their results were very close. I congratulate George Auksaq for winning the election. I also congratulate the council members who were acclaimed: Celestino Uyarak, Edward Attagutluk, Shanshan Tian, Amanda Curley, Ludger Makkik, Jacob Malliki and Celina Uttuigak. I congratulate all of you and I expect to work with all of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Niaqnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 390 – 6(2): City
of Iqaluit Election Results**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all my colleagues here, and

everyone in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu who is watching and listening.

I rise today to talk about people who give of themselves to run for elections because they want to help their community, and we've all gone through that. Last night, I couldn't settle down because I was anxious to see who got elected. I'd like to express great thanks to the people who ran for mayor. Solomon Awa. He was the acting mayor, and now he'll be the mayor for the coming years.

Also, the people that will help him on council are: Kim Smith, Kyle Sheppard, Romeyn Stevenson, Sam Tilley, Simon Nattaq, Harry Flaherty, Methusalah Kunuk and Jack Anawak.

I thank them very much for running and I look forward to working with all of them because the city is very important, and you are important councillors. We will be able to work together into the future, and I'd like to thank all of the candidates because they gave themselves to the public, and that's why I rose today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 391 – 6(2):
Municipal Election Results in the
High Arctic**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All three communities I represent three had elections for mayor and I'm glad the mayors were elected. The councillors,

however, were acclaimed and they will need to appoint some other councillors because they didn't have enough people running. I would like to express my pride to my brother-in-law, Olayuk Naqitarvik, for Arctic Bay, as well the councillor will be Kigutikajuk Shappa. The former mayor, Moses Oyukuluk, did not run again and I thank him for all the good work that he did as mayor. I also thank Frank May, for running for mayor.

Three people ran for mayor in Resolute Bay and Aziz Kheraj was elected and they also received one councillor; Jazlin Salluviniq, who was acclaimed.

I would like to thank Mark Amarualik. Though he is a young person, he ran again but did not get elected. He was the mayor for the past four years and I thank him for that.

In Grise Fiord, Meeka Kiguktak got re-elected and Jaypetee Peter, who ran for the first time, was defeated. I thank him too. The councillors are:

- Susie Kiguktak
- Arqnarulunnguaq Audlaluk
- Eva Muckpa
- Laisa Audlaluk-Watsko
- Jimmy Qaapik

I am proud of all you and I am very glad that they got on and I am looking forward to working with them. I thank all the candidates that ran. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statements.
Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 392 – 6(2):
Municipal Election Results in
Cambridge Bay**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to our colleagues and Iqaluktuutiarmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I have a special birthday greeting for my dear mother, Susie. Happy 55th birthday, mom. *Quana* for your love and support.

Mr. Speaker, I know many people, including myself, were up late into the evening and early morning waiting on election results. Let's acknowledge everyone who took that step to put themselves out there in the name of their community to stand up to ensure a prosperous future for our communities.

Again, I want to thank all of you who ran in our municipal elections and congratulate those elected in Cambridge Bay. Congratulations to our new mayor-elect, Wayne Gregory. Our councillors-elect are:

- Vivienne Aknavigak
- Zachary Cziranka-Crooks
- Darren Etibloena
- Bessie Haomik Joy
- Dana Langille
- Jessie Lyall
- Stephanie Taptuna
- Wilfred Wilcox

I would also like to congratulate those members who put their names forward to serve on the District Education Authority and were acclaimed. They are:

- Cory Baker
- Chris Crooks
- Adrian Nocon

- Alan Sim
- Mark Slatter

I look forward to working with all of you in your important roles.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank outgoing mayor, Derek Elias, for his dedication and commitment to our vibrant community, all those councillors he served with, and the staff, for the work you accomplished over the past couple of years.

To each of you who took the time to go vote or volunteer in the election process, and to our Elections Nunavut workers who ensured a smooth election process, thank you. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statement. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 393 – 6(2):
Municipal Election Results in
Pangnirtung**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to announce the winners in the election in Pangnirtung. I am also quite proud of Lynn Meeka Mike, who is the new mayor-elect of Pangnirtung. I congratulate her and the newly elected councillors:

- Janice Alivaktuk
- Delia Young
- Davidee Nauyuq
- Julia Alikatuktuk
- Sheila Kilabuk
- Jaco Ishulutak
- Davidee Kooneeliusie
- Markus Wilcke

There are five incumbents from this group who were re-elected. I am very happy for their success. There were also several people who got elected for the local district education authority and they are:

- Mathew Nauyuq
- Karen Douglas
- Lynn Meeka Mike
- Jeannie Kalai Alivaktuk
- Oloosie Pitsiulak
- Joanna Kilabuk-Evic

I am very happy they put their names forward, I congratulate them and I look forward to working with them to develop our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerker.

**Member's Statement 394 – 6(2):
Municipal Election Results in
Sanirajak**

Hon. Joellie Kaernerker (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have some news to pass along as I, too, wish to speak about the elections yesterday.

I stayed up until about 2 o'clock in the morning waiting for the results online, and by the time I noticed, it was already after midnight in the early morning when I could finally see the results.

I want to thank the previous mayor, along with the people who ran for the vacant council seats. Even though you may not have been elected, you can help the community in other ways.

These people were elected to the council:

- Manasee Ulayuk
- Irene Morgan
- Adam Isaac Issigaitok
- Luther Triggs
- Trisha Grossett
- Iga Maliki
- Jopie K

Oh, I apologize.

- Jopie Kaernerker

>> *Laughter*

- Margaret Qayaqjuaq

I congratulate all of you and everyone who came to vote.

Now, as for the election for mayor, there was a tie, so they're going to have to have a recount and I will announce the results once I hear them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 395 – 6(2):
Election Results in South Baffin**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Elections are a big deal in Nunavut and all of Canada, and I would like to announce the results for the South Baffin elections. There were some individuals who weren't elected as they were acclaimed and will have a seat. I will say their names. In Kimmirut is returning mayor Maliktoo Lyta. The councillors will be:

- Terry Itulu
- Mary Lyta

- Terry Pitsiulak
- Alashuk Allen

Also, in Kinngait, returning as mayor is Jimmy Manning and I would like to thank him. The council members are:

- Caleva Kelly
- Andre Wilkinson
- Maryann Emond
- Kumaarjuk Pii
- Wakta Etungat
- Salomonie Ashoona
- Juanisie Etidloi
- Zeke Ejesiak

Mr. Speaker, they also voted for the alcohol education committee in Kinngait. They are:

- Fred Hutchings
- Tuumasi Thoma
- Stephen Lawrence
- Chris Pudlat
- Marianne Emond
- Maata Pee Pudlat

There was also a tie and they will have to have a recount for one of them.

Lastly, for the local district education authority in Kimmirut, Joanasie Atsiaq, Mary Sagiaktuk and Akulujuk Judea are acclaimed in Cape Dorset.

There will also be elections next week on October 30 for the local district education authority, so Kinngait is having another election, just so you are all aware. So everybody who is running for the local district education authority, I wish you the best of luck and I look forward to working with all the elected members in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

**Member's Statement 396 – 6(2):
Election Results in Sanikiluaq**

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate and welcome the people who were elected in Sanikiluaq. The hamlet councillors will be:

- Christina L'Heureux
- Lucy Appaqaq
- Sarah Kittosuk
- Lucy Uppik
- Dinah Kittosuk
- Johnny Appaqaq
- Johnny Inuktaluk

I would also like to acknowledge Johnny Inuktaluk, Lucy Appaqaq, Lucy Uppik, and Christina L'Heureux who were elected for the local district education authority.

Those are the people that will be running the two organizations in our community that held elections.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues congratulated their new mayors, but unfortunately in Sanikiluaq there will be a general election on October 30 and I expect to congratulate the new mayor by October 31. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today, I would like to recognize officials with the Northern Counselling and Therapeutic Services, who are here in Iqaluit this week to begin offering some counselling services to our community social services workers at the Department of Family Services.

This new service is part of our response to the Auditor General's report. Please welcome President Devan Pennell, Senior Vice-President Rianne Van Bruggen, cultural and community relations advisor Alisa Praamsma, and Lawrence Sheppard, the clinical team lead.

>> *Applause*

Welcome to the House and it's great to have you here. Thank you.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 555 – 6(2): Igloolik Airport Infrastructure**

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, questions were asked by my colleague

representing Amittuq during the recent spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly concerning the need for infrastructure improvements at the Igloolik Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed a number of situations where elders and disabled residents in wheelchairs have encountered severe difficulties as a consequence of the lack of ramps and other appropriate infrastructure at the airport.

When this issue was last raised in the House, the minister indicated that work has been underway by his department to address this issue.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of his department's work?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This work is ongoing, with details still requiring further work with the way it was setup. It has been provided to our employees who undertake capital planning and these items are in our capital plans which we are having reviewed here. Upon approval, they would need to be constructed.

At this time, the funds are listed under small capital funded projects, and these funds are set aside for communities that may face critical shortages requiring emergency repairs in communities that are identified as having the most critical needs.

Factors include the number of disabled people or people with mobility issues who require passage through the airports. During the original construction of the older terminal buildings, no thought was given towards providing access to them.

Whenever we have funds for improving local terminals, this access ramp project is funded by our department, as we are committed to providing access to all. Nonetheless, I will provide more information to my colleague on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, he recently tabled his department's *2020-2040 Nunavut Airports 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Update* report. This report identified a number of deficiencies at Igloolik's airport, including the need for improvements to its taxiway, apron and runway. Can the minister clarify when these improvements will be undertaken? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is fortunate that we are able to qualify under the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program, and every time we submit, it is at the call of the federal government to approve.

We have been getting approvals almost once a year approvals on these

communities, and each of the communities that are in dire need of fixing, we submit proposals.

I don't know exactly when the queue is for Igloolik, but I want to assure the members that for those types of projects, we rely heavily on federal funds when it comes to fixing our aprons and resurfacing our airstrips. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response; however, part of my question was not answered. I recognize and understand that the Government of Nunavut does not have unlimited resources with which to pave all of our airports' runways.

Can the minister update the House today on his discussions with the federal Minister of Transport to improve the federal Airport Capital Assistance Program? When can we expect to have the runway paved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Paving is very expensive. We have had requests from fellow members for this and I have told them that it becomes more expensive on the maintenance side. With that being the case, I'm not putting too much effort into looking at that as my priority is on improvements to assist people with disabilities and the safety of airports.

That's what I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 556 – 6(2): Conservation Economies in Nunavut – Aviqtuuq Case Study

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the issue of the Aviqtuuq initiative.

Mr. Speaker, during last Thursday's sitting of the House, I tabled the *Conservation Economies in Nunavut – Aviqtuuq Case Study* for the benefit of all members.

The case study outlines a number of initiatives that would support Taloyoak with the process of developing a conservation economy.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that the minister's department is very familiar with this important initiative.

Can the minister describe what specific actions his department is taking to support the conservation economy and enhance food security in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, from the understanding of my staff, the community has applied for funding within our department and they have been approved to do some of the

programs that they want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have raised the issue of the Niqihaqut country food processing facility in Taloyoak a number of times in the House.

The Niqihaqut project includes a sustainable and monitored harvest, a cut-and-wrap facility to prepare and distribute food to the community. The goal of the project is to address food insecurity in Taloyoak, create new jobs in the community and providing opportunities for training and teaching of traditional hunting practices.

Mr. Speaker, the *Conservation Economies in Nunavut – Aviqtuuq Case Study* also describes the potential opportunity to sell country food to neighboring communities, including Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven. This expansion would allow the facility to act as a regional country food business.

As the minister will recall, my predecessor recommended during the previous Assembly that a review be undertaken of a potential partnership between the Niqihaqut project and the Nunavut Development Corporation's Venture Equity Investments Program.

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

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This project that is right before our eyes; the conservation area, those discussions are taking place in a tri-party, which involves the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and the hunters and trappers organization in the community. Infrastructure like that is within that management plan, which I trust that the folks that are working on those are working hard in trying to get what the community wishes for. However, I cannot jump ahead of that because that work is still being done at the tri-party discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aviqtuuq, the Boothia Peninsula, where Taloyoak is located, has a unique landscape and an abundance of traditional food resources such as caribou, muskox, char and seal.

The Conservation Economies in Nunavut – Aviqtuuq Case Study outlines the need for protection of Aviqtuuq and calls for establishing the Aviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area.

For the record, can the minister indicate what his department's current position is concerning the establishment of the Aviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As these conservation areas are coming into our territory, thanks to the federal government's initiative in trying to get conservation areas by 2030 to have 30 percent of Canada conserved, those works and discussions are ongoing and discussions as a part of this is that they are making their management plan as that conservation is proceeding. How and when that will be, as I mentioned, is a three-way discussion. Our government is involved in those discussions, and that's part of the work that we continue to do within our departments throughout the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 557 – 6(2): Stranded Medical Travellers

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. In my member's statement, I mentioned that a number of medical appointments have been cancelled due to the lack of hotel rooms in Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister clarify whether he is aware of these cancellations, and tell me what steps have been taken to ensure that the appointments were rescheduled as soon as possible? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. (interpretation ends) As

the member mentioned, we are currently aware that there is a shortage of hotel rooms in Rankin Inlet. That's something we've been working around and trying to work within.

It's a relatively new phenomenon, from my understanding, this shortage of hotel rooms. So you know, when we talk about medical travel, in 2022-23, there were over 35,000 round trips booked for Nunavummiut, so in terms of the cancellations that happen and different delays, it's impossible for me to personally keep track of who's getting delayed where on a daily basis. We leave that important responsibility to our medical travel teams.

I want to highlight the incredible work that's done by medical travel staff, not just in the Kivalliq, but right across Nunavut. They're focused on customer service, they're focused on making sure the travellers make it to their appointments, and when they don't, appointments are rebooked, and often that's in partnership with our southern health partners.

In this case, it might be, I'm unsure of the particulars that the hon. member is referring to, but it might be working with health services out of Winnipeg or Manitoba, and that is the normal procedure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague asked questions in the House during our last winter sitting, and I can't remember exactly when it was, but the former

Minister of Health had stated previously that there are not enough patients travelling through Rankin Inlet. I don't believe that and I have seen and I have been told by my constituents that there are not enough medical clients going to Rankin Inlet to justify a boarding home in the community. That's just a comment.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify what protocols should be followed when medical clients are stranded at airports and need a place to stay? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to be believed. The member said that he didn't believe me, which is disappointing. I would like to be believed and I can show the numbers of where the patients are located and how many patients are accommodated at hotels in Rankin Inlet. I can show the member the numbers if he wants to see them.

With regard to delays or cancelled appointments, we have departmental staff working with the airlines as well as the hotels. They work very hard to prepare ahead of time, but sometimes, and I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, the lack of hotels in Rankin Inlet is one of the reasons why some patients have to return to Winnipeg when there are no rooms available in Rankin Inlet. It's very difficult for the patients who are travelling and we understand that and we feel for them. We have been working closely with private companies, especially the airlines, to figure out how

it can best be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the minister for working very hard on this, but I know that there is always room for improvement in whatever we are working, so I am requesting some improvements be made so that our Inuit constituents can be properly served.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, medical travel clients from a number of Kivalliq communities have travelled through Rankin Inlet to receive medical care. As our communities grow, the need for services also grows. A dedicated boarding home for Rankin Inlet would certainly reduce the strain on travellers.

Will the minister consider establishing a medical boarding home in the hub community of Rankin Inlet?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The boarding homes are a function, or their service is offered to Nunavut Inuit through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program.

When we are looking at a boarding home in a community, say Iqaluit for example, the Department of Health is not alone in trying to meet the needs for a boarding home. We have to work very closely with Indigenous Services Canada.

If we are looking at establishing a new boarding home, whether it's in Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay, which are currently the two regional centres without boarding homes, it would mean the Department of Health would need to undertake work in collaboration, or very close, working along side Indigenous Services Canada.

The first step would be a pre-feasibility study and the next step would be a feasibility study, and if that proves positive, then the step after that would be to move into establishing a boarding home.

Right now, we've looked at the numbers in terms of pre-feasibility and the pre-feasibility does not support moving to a feasibility. I can certainly work with my staff to take another look at the numbers, but if the numbers aren't there for the medical travellers, then we would be establishing either a very small boarding home, or a boarding that's largely going to sit un-utilized and it will be difficult for us to get support to establish that contract.

I hope that explains kind of some of the steps that would have to go through to get to a boarding home. It's not as simple as the minister of health snapping his fingers and saying we're going to get a boarding home in this community. It's based on traveller demand and there is a number of steps we have to work through along with the Indigenous Services Canada. I can commit to looking at the pre-feasibility study numbers again. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 558 – 6(2): Medical Boarding Home for Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

I would like to revisit an issue that I have raised a number of times, but has yet to be properly addressed; the need for a medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister clearly explain why he does not support the establishment of medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the member for the question. I'm very pleased with your questions at this time.

(interpretation ends) As I just indicated, in my response to the Member for Aivilik, I explained the steps that we would have to go through in terms of establishing a boarding home, and it's not as simple as... The member's question was why I, as minister, do not support this.

I think the question is more whether the numbers support this, whether the demand supports it, and whether there's sufficient travel volume to support this.

Right now, we do work with private hotels in Rankin Inlet to meet the need for accommodation in the community, and so, that's the current approach, and as I indicated to the Member for Aivilik, there is a shortage of hotel rooms, it's something we're working around. I would hope that there will be additional hotels developed in Rankin Inlet, and we'll move out of this period of low availability of hotel rooms, which would make it a lot easier for both medical travellers and other travellers going through Rankin. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my next question, what about Churchill, Manitoba? How are they using the boarding home there?

(interpretation ends) The need for medical boarding home services in Rankin has been clearly demonstrated. Recently, the Kivalliq medical travel office posted on Facebook looking for billets for medical travellers going through Rankin Inlet. The lack of boarding for medical travel clients when the hotels are full or flights are cancelled has become a serious issue.

Can the minister clarify why the Kivalliq medical travel office is looking for billets in Rankin Inlet if adequate accommodation for medical travellers is not a concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

As I indicated, there is a shortage of hotel accommodations in Rankin, and not just in Rankin, it can be in different communities. Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, medical travel clients can choose to stay with friends or family instead of a boarding home, and the NIHB, Non-Insured Health Benefits program, offers a daily billet rate to pay for eligible medical travellers. That includes clients and escorts to pay for their accommodations, meals and ground transportation.

This is a normal part of medical travel. Some travellers prefer to stay with family out of personal preference, and it's the Non-Insured Health Benefits program that offers that ability for them to get reimbursed, and I think the medical travel staff in Rankin Inlet, I think that shows an example of *Qanuqtuurniq* and being creative in trying to provide service and make sure that people are taken care of. I would like to commend them for looking for ways to make sure that our medical travellers' needs are provided for during their journey. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) They want to get the same rate that the hotel is getting, not what the government rate is.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that there is a need for a dedicated boarding home for medical travel clients going through Rankin Inlet. It puts extra stress on patients when they fear they may be

stuck with no place to stay if their flight is cancelled.

It is my understanding that a non-government entity proposed establishing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet, but the proposal was rejected. This is unfortunate because the infrastructure is ready to go and would fill a need.

Will the minister reconsider his position with respect to establishing a medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet and assure this House that he will give any new proposal his full consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm unaware of any proposals that have been submitted and rejected, so maybe after this sitting, the member and I can have a discussion. That's news to me that there would have been a proposal submitted.

I think my position has been quite clear in that I support measures to meet the needs of medical travellers. I explained the different steps that we would have to go through if we were to be establishing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Pre-feasibility, feasibility, and then if that's positive, moving to operations of it. So I don't know what more can be said, to be honest, Mr. Speaker. If the numbers are there, if the volume of travel is there, I think that would justify us moving to feasibility.

As I committed to in the previous round of questions to the member for Aivilik, I can commit to taking a look at the pre-feasibility numbers that have been

compiled by the department and following up with the member.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 559 – 6(2): Quality of Care for Elders

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to ask a question to the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the *Katujjiluta* mandate has “Aging with dignity” as one of its key priorities. Supporting our elders and others to stay in their homes and in their home communities as they age or battle a heavy illness is an important factor in respecting their dignity as a person and a member of their community.

Can the minister provide an update on what efforts have been made to provide training for community-based home care workers to support our elders or individuals with chronic illnesses in their homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for her questions. Yes, I understand exactly where you are coming from in terms of how we can ensure elders can stay at home and age with dignity and stay in their community. It provides them better health and it cost less to the government.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the training items for home care workers, we

are working with Nunavut Arctic College to develop and deliver a personal support worker program and the goal of this program is to support current and future home and continuing care workers. It consists of both in-person and online training, and it’s new, so we’ve delivered a pilot of it, and we’ve got some good feedback from it. We’re further refining the program with Nunavut Arctic College, and when we look at the new long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet, a \$60 million investment is something we can all be proud of.

We look at the need for employment there. That is where programs like this will be important, but not just in communities with long-term care centres. Right across Nunavut we look at our home care numbers, and year after year they are going up and up, which means more clients are getting help. So that is something that we want to continue seeing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. We want that to continue moving forward so that it can better help our elders and to keep them at home and in their communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that there was a significant block of funding available for home care training, but I am not aware of any such training taking place locally this past year.

For those communities which do not have elder care facilities or palliative

care beds, having more local people trained to provide home care would allow more of our elders to stay home for longer.

Can the minister describe what efforts have been made or are being planned to provide home care training at the community-level, especially in the community of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): I thank the member for that question. It is a new program being offered with the help of Nunavut Arctic College and we would like to make it available to more communities. Some will be by remote learning, and some will be in person. The way we have it set up is to ensure that this program is available to as many of the communities as possible.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when we look at home care in Pond Inlet specifically, there are a total of six positions allocated for that service, and four of those are currently filled with indeterminate staff. When we look at the services that they are providing in terms of homemaking, personal care, respite care, nursing care, it is really important work.

I had the pleasure of meeting some of the home care workers in Pond Inlet as well as other communities and they really put the “care” in home care. It is evident in speaking with them how much they care for their clients. They develop a personal relationship and that is kind of the magic that happens in health care when you have that connection between a community member and the care

provider. I’ll stop talking about how great they are, but it is really touching to see the supports they provide, not just to elders, but others needing help at the community-level. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. They do excellent work at the community-level, and if they were provided more training, they could provide more services to those in need.

I have another question, but I would like to say that if there was further training or if home care service could be expanded in the communities, we would see more elders being taken care of at home as well as for those others in need.

(interpretation ends) Currently, the home care nurse works 9 to 5 with their staff. Having more locally trained staff would allow for this service to be available at different hours around the clock.

Will the minister commit to reviewing how home care services can be expanded in our communities, and to start with, provide more home training at the local level? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. We can do a review on how we can extend the hours of service or if we can provide services on Saturday and Sunday, for example. We are currently doing a review.

With regard to training, we can look into it further, and if I have additional information, I'll make sure that I get it to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 560 – 6(2): Security at Health Facilities

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to start off by offering my apologies for my questions also for the Minister of Health.

For the record, I would just like to state that I support my fellow colleagues in calling for a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, this would enhance care for Nunavummiut during their stressful time, as well as offer a cost benefit to the Department of Health's medical travel budget. In addition, it would free up the much-needed hotel space.

Mr. Speaker, this is supported, especially as Health continues to increase its level of care and services provided at the Rankin Inlet regional health centre. I would like to wish the minister much luck in updating the pre-feasibility study in convincing Indigenous Services Canada to make the investment.

However, Mr. Speaker, my questions today concern the issue of security at our territory's health facilities. As the minister will recall, I referred to this issue during my questions last week to the Minister of Justice concerning the need to bring forward a more rigorous regulatory framework for the private security industry in Nunavut. As the minister will also recall, his department

issued a request for proposal in January, this year, for security services in 13 Nunavut health centres.

However, in August of this year, the government published information indicating that a contract valued at over \$22 million, had been awarded to one of the bidders, but the government had subsequently announced that the award had been cancelled and that a new request for proposal process would be initiated at a later date with revised terms of services.

I would like to ask: for the record, can the minister explain why the initial award was rescinded, and can he clearly indicate how the new RFP will be different? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the public procurement process, I'm not going to comment on why specific contracts were... I'm not going to get into that. It is a public procurement process; it is handled by the public service and I think it is important for political leadership, such as myself, to leave that important job to the public service.

However, in terms of monitoring request for proposals, or procurement processes, that is within the scope of my role. A request for proposals has been issued and proposals are currently under review. That is what I can say in terms of the current process that is ongoing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. I also agree with the minister that there should be no political interference when it comes to public procurement; however, it is highly unusual for an RFP to be awarded and then immediately rescinded.

However, Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his department also issued a request for proposals in August 22 for security services at the Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit. The terms of reference for this work included some very stringent certification requirements including non-violent crisis intervention, applied suicide intervention skills training, closed circuit television training, alternative dispute resolution and de-escalation of potentially violent situations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the minister can confirm what entity has been awarded the contract security services at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, and can he describe how the Department of Health will ensure that the frontline security staff have the required training and certification? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are multiple questions in there, so I'll choose one and answer it.

On the RFP process and which contracts have been awarded, I'll get back to the member on that, but the certification

requirements and the needs for security personnel to be of a high quality is really important to the Department of Health. It goes to the real foundation or the real fundamental reason why we have these contracts in place; it's for the safety of our staff and the safety of anyone who is in a health facility in Nunavut.

If we look at, over time, over the past decade or so, the number of reported violent incidents are increasing, so what do we do with that as the Department of Health? We have a fundamental responsibility to protect our staff and to protect anybody who is in our facilities for care, and that's where if you look at retention and recruitment, it's absolutely essential that we, as the Department of Health, Government of Nunavut are able to offer safe, secure facilities for people to receive care and for people to provide care in. It is quite financially taxing; it's not a cheap endeavour to provide security services in 18 community health facilities like we do right now, but at the end of the day, we're left with little choice when we look at the fundamental responsibility that we have to provide safe facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's response. However, I can also understand the other side, where Nunavummiut are going health centres and going through very stressful situations, receiving care from people that are not from Nunavut, people that do not speak Inuktitut, and how that could quickly escalate the situation.

However, I do understand the need to ensure that Nunavummiut can also receive health care in and in a safe environment. Again, I do appreciate where the minister is coming from.

However, Mr. Speaker, the terms of reference for the department's recently issued request for proposal for security services at community health centres also includes further significant requirements such as previous law enforcement experience.

Mr. Speaker, I support my fellow colleagues when they express the desire to see their constituents gain the necessary skills and training in order to fill these positions in our community health centres.

I would like to ask: can the minister indicate whether or not his department is working with Nunavut Arctic College or any other partners to develop courses that can be delivered in Nunavut, or by remote means for Nunavummiut who wish to gain certification in this field in order to take advantage of employment opportunities providing security services in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for the question. As to the question from the member, we aren't really work with Nunavut Arctic College at this point, but we do work with the people who hold the contracts and tell them how they're supposed to be training Nunavut Inuit.

(interpretation ends) We do have a mentorship initiative within the existing security services contract, so when we see the staff who have previous law enforcement experience, they've been able to bring or mentor staff into the position. This program is currently in place in six communities: Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk, and Taloyoak, and we have seen some success with this program, and it's something that we're looking to build on further. We have training and mentorship components embedded, or we will aim to have them embedded in contracts going forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 561 – 6(2): Nunavut Member of Parliament's Private Bill C-326

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I will not ask the Minister of Health.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I am in possession of a newsletter from Nunavut's Member of Parliament, and I'll state some of the stuff on there.

Nunavut's Member of Parliament stated, "On March 10, 2023, I tabled Bill C-326 on behalf of Nunavummiut. This Bill is part of my work to fight for your rights, to help protect the wildlife and environment from corporate greed."

It goes on to say, "What is in my bill?"

Bill C-326, *An Act to Amend the Territorial Lands Act*, is a Private Member's Bill. (...)

Why did I introduce it?

My Bill seeks to align Nunavut's *Territorial Lands Act* with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). If passed, my Bill would require resources extractors to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples when developing on Indigenous land. The current system is flawed and I hope to fix it. For too long, the federal government has relied on the courts to respect Indigenous peoples rights. Canada is founded on Indigenous peoples lands, so governments and industry must respect the rights of Indigenous peoples."

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Environment, as the minister responsible for the environment and wildlife. In Nunavut, we have the current Nunavut Impact Review Board to deal with the process of development, but I asked the minister if the minister agrees with the statement from our Member of Parliament that the current system is flawed and hope to fix it. Does the minister agree with that comment? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My answer is: no, I do not agree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the minister for that, because I, too, agree that we have the current system that was envisioned and has been here since the inception of Nunavut and does work. It may work slow at times, but it does work.

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the minister now: if the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is passed by the Government of Canada, can the minister foresee how that will change the environmental impact process within Nunavut? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be honest, I have not gone further into the member's question. I can certainly look into this matter and get back to the member directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question will be: have there been any communications between the Department of Environment, which is responsible for wildlife and environment within Nunavut... ? Has there been any correspondence from the Member of Parliament on the bill that she has forwarded and that has received first reading that may affect Nunavut? Has there been any communications on how this bill may better be suited to work within Nunavut's environmental impact assessment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to the deputy minister or acting deputy minister.

To my knowledge and honesty, I have not gone further into more reading. I have to further get back on this if I must. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 562 – 6(2): Wolf Sample Collection Program

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are also for the Minister of Environment.

In May of this year, the minister's predecessor announced changes to the department's Wolf Sample Collection Program.

At that time, I noted I had been advocating for improvements to the program in order to better Kugluktuk hunters and address the serious problem of wolf predation of our caribou population.

Can the new minister provide an update today on the status of his department's Wolf Samples Collection Program?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new policy for the Wolf Sample Collection Program was

approved on May 4, 2023, as the member stated.

Mr. Speaker, in areas where caribou are declining, specifically in Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Dolphin-Union herd ranges, this payment will be increased to \$900 per sample.

As of October 3, 2023, a total of 93 samples have been collected under the new program for a total of \$46,500 in sample payments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Just to the member, there is no need to say "the new minister," just say minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize.

In its recent announcement concerning the program, the Department of Environment indicated that "In areas where caribou are declining, specifically in the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Dolphin-Union herd ranges, this payment will be increased to \$900 for each submitted sample. Enhanced wolf management actions support the recovery of declining caribou herds."

Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization to measure the success of the Wolf Sample Collection Program in reducing predation of caribou?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is in close working relationship with the hunters and trappers organizations across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the department is paying harvesters directly rather than the hunters and trappers' organizations and this provides greater financial accountability in the tracking and issuing of the payments to the hunters.

We will continue to update our progress on this program to communities that are most affected where caribou are in decline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the responses. Will the minister commit to reporting annually to the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Wolf Sample Collection Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I can commit to the member's request as this program is a standalone program that is funded \$500,000 annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 563 – 6(2): Insurance Issue after Fire in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to put the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation back on the hot seat.

Mr. Speaker, a little over a year and a half ago, in March 2022, as the Speaker is very well aware, there was quite a devastating fire in your community regarding the Office of Motor Vehicles Branch, Headquarters Division, where a number of staff and services were displaced.

Mr. Speaker, at the time, there was a lot of questioning because of the transfer of ownership of that building on what the insurance implications were, and I would like to get an update from the minister today on what the outcome was on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I really enjoy question period, but this question is more appropriate with my fellow colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services, as he administers the insurance and the building assets portion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is redirecting the question to Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member can reiterate his question, I'll tune in a little closer, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: The minister is asking to re-ask the question. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister taking on the question. There was an office building that was in the process of transitioning ownership to the Government of Nunavut in the community of Gjoa Haven. It's the Speaker's community that had a fire in March of 2022, and there was some question on the insurance outcome of who would be responsible for the insurance and receiving insurance proceeds on rebuilding that piece of infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The 6,000 square foot lease to own the Qaggiariit NCC office building in Gjoa Haven was occupied by several Government of Nunavut departments that got destroyed by fire, and resulting from that, our Property Division established a new interim lease to house the second floor of the CAP building in Gjoa Haven, and this is a temporary measure to allow for office space for those that were displaced.

As a lease-to-own building, there was an amendment to the arrangement entered into, in order for the building owner, which is the Nunavut NCC Properties Ltd. to carry out the reconstruction of the lost office building, and this lease agreement was effective on March 24, 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that my Curious George factor has kicked in, I'll have to come back to the Minister of Community and Government Services on that response.

I would like to direct back at the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. What is the current staffing complement of the Motor Vehicles Division Headquarters in Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, you can't go back and forth to ministers. You're going to have to ask that question at another time. Second question, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't the one that deferred the question, but I do appreciate the rules of the House, and I wasn't trying to pull a fast one.

With the insurance of the transfer of the ownership of that building, the minister mentioned, as of March 2024, the lease agreement was renewed or negotiated. I would just like to ask the question: is the Government of Nunavut currently paying leases on two properties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This fire was a complicated encounter where it was a lease-to-own arrangement with property owners, and with that, when we had to put in a new lease arrangement to house the displaced employees, we had to sort those things out.

We do have a path forward in that the building owners, NCC Development, will be responsible for rebuilding the lost building, and following the recent revisions to the lease agreement, departments will be overseeing the reconstruction project going forward.

We did have to have to make sure that those staff in Gjoa Haven had available space to work out of, and I think we're kind of out of the rough, so to speak, but the plan to rebuild in Gjoa Haven is ongoing. The construction was set to begin this fall with substantial completion anticipated by December, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There might be some interference with your electronics. There are audible vibrations. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to apologize; I wasn't trying to pull a fast one. I was just open for a little bit of flexibility and I used a poor choice of words.

Mr. Speaker, with the current renegotiated lease, is it under the same price point as the previous lease, or because it's a newer construction, has there been a change in the value of that lease agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the lease costs, again, they had to be sorted out in a way that all parties were in agreement on how to move forward in that situation. I'll commit to coming back to my

colleague on what the lease costs were throughout that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 564 – 6(2): Municipal Governance

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, I hope, will begin with the Minister of Community and Government Services and end with the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As we all know, yesterday was municipal election day across Nunavut, and I offer my warmest congratulations to all of those elected, and my deepest thanks to all former officials for their service.

Mr. Speaker, prior to my election to this House, many know that I had the honour of serving on Iqaluit's city council as deputy mayor.

I speak from my own lived and professional experience when I say that it is absolutely imperative that newly elected and/or acclaimed members of municipal councils receive comprehensive orientation to their roles and responsibilities. This orientation is an important cornerstone in good governance.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit is fortunate insofar as the city's larger size allows for a lot of this work to be done in-house by our experienced and dedicated staff, along with help from expert consultants.

Can the minister describe how his department will be working with

municipalities in smaller Nunavut communities; in all Nunavut communities, over the coming weeks to deliver high-quality orientation to new council members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the questions on municipal elections. Again, I think it is an exciting time, especially for the newly elected, and I, too, bid well for those that have been newly elected or have been re-elected into either mayor or council.

Mr. Speaker, my department works closely with hamlets and administrators to ensure that municipalities are aware of their responsibilities under relevant legislation. This includes for newly elected hamlet officials to go through an orientation process.

Mr. Speaker, although it's not mandated through an Act to provide orientation, my department does provide that for municipalities, including through our community development staff that provide councils with detailed orientation to ensure clarity on their roles and responsibilities of council and municipal staff and the department.

Such topics included through their council orientation are; roles and responsibilities, policy management, municipal finances, council procedures, conflict of interest, and community governance.

This is an ongoing process throughout the four years. If councils would like to

receive refresher courses, my department works on case-by-case basis to provide this orientation training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for that response. I highly encourage every council member, whether they are newly elected or re-elected to take part in any orientation. It's also an excellent opportunity to form as a group when you are being oriented. Even if you have prior experience, this is really important.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that orientation for members of municipal councils includes a strong component of guidance on how to avoid conflict of interest. All Canadian legislatures have an independent integrity commissioner or similar position that can provide this advice and conduct reviews, and I am aware that a number of larger Canadian cities have similar positions. Mr. Speaker, it is not realistic for each of our 25 municipalities to have such a position in place.

As I noted during my recent questions to the Minister of Human Resources, the most recent annual report of the ethics officer recommends that "consideration be given" to expanding the role of that office to encompass municipalities. Can the minister clearly state his position regarding this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to conflicts of interest, yes, I do note that there is not a specific position where in which municipal councillors can direct their issues towards if there's a conflict of interest, but I think that's right now managed internally by each council. The chair or the mayor in this case, would, as per their agenda item, have a line for any member of their council that needs to declare conflict. They go through that process each meeting, and if they do need to declare, then they make that disclosure.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the question that my colleague asked of the human resources department, I believe it was on the ethics office, I'll leave my position on that for another day, but I think we'll keep that conversation open around what those position's scope of work entails, because as I understand it right now, the ethics officer only deals with public servants and not with municipal staff. Keep those in mind on how those can be addressed either at the local level or at the territorial-level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important to note specifically in the annual report of the ethics officer for the Nunavut public service in 2021-22, the ethics officer, under the issue of hamlets, stated, "Over the years, I have received a number of inquiries about alleged wrongdoing by employees of hamlets. I have to advise that I have no jurisdiction to look into the matter and can offer no alternatives. Consideration should be given to expanding the

jurisdiction of the Ethics Officer to encompass such disclosures of alleged wrongdoing." That's why I asked. I think it's a very important recommendation coming from a very important person.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, he is responsible for the territorial *Conflict of Interest Act*. Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation was inherited upon division and has not been amended in over a decade. Can the minister describe what plans his department has to review this statute during the remaining life of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, my department does not have any immediate plans or around the *Conflict of Interest Act*. It's not quite on our radar, I think, within the life of this government. If anything, we might be initiating any review that might need to occur. At this time, it's not within our life of this government to discuss this legislation in depth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we extend question period. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replied to Opening Address. Item 10.

Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 31, 32, 33, 35, and 36 and Tabled Documents 1 – 6(2), 73 – 6(2), 120 – 6(2), and 163 – 6(2) with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 22 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:36 and
committee resumed at 16:05*

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 31, 32, 33, 35, and 36 and Tabled Documents 1 – 6(2), 73 – 6(2), 120 – 6(2), and 163 – 6(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2024 capital appropriation for the Department

of Community and Government Services, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree we will continue with Bill 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2024-2025 – Community and
Government Services –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee with you? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you agree, I do have witnesses here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We will soon find out. Does the committee agree to allow the minister to have witnesses appear with him?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you. For the record, Minister Joanasie, can you introduce your officials to the committee?

Hon. David Joanasie: I can, Mr. Chairman. To my left, is Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley, and to my right is Director of Financial Services, Mandy Hickey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just to remind the committee, we left off on infrastructure, page J-5. \$45.1 million. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many here, but one of the items is tenant improvement fees for \$4 million. Was that amount all used up in the previous year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. We did not expend the entire budget. It is a new line item that we are wanting to continue forward with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand tenant improvement fees when you are going to lease an office building or a building and you want to fix it up to your standards, but I have known that this tenant improvement fee has been used on a new spec'd out building. I would like to ask the minister: why wouldn't they spec out a new building in the RFP instead of having to make tenant improvement fees once the outside walls are done? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. Sometimes, when we do acquire a new office leased space, it sometimes may not fit the client department that would go into that

space, so there are, at times, necessary improvements needed to support the programming service that will be provided through that office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister did not answer my question. I said that I understand if you are getting a new lease on a new building and it does not fit the client on it, that you have to make tenant improvement to plugs here, walls there, and stuff like that.

When you spec-out a new building, and I'll take the example, the one in Arviat; it was as brand-new building built for the GN to lease, and there were tenant improvements on a brand-new 'being built' building for the government to have as an office.

Why would you not spec out a brand-new building to your specifications so that there are no tenant improvement fees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not exactly sure of the exact case that my colleague brings up. I will have to look into further details on that.

With this new tenant improvement fund that we are proposing, again, the intention here is to streamline the tenant improvement process because before, departments were left to their own devices on seeking funds to make

improvements on a lease that they acquired to fit their needs.

This \$4 million is being funnelled through my department on behalf of other departments to meet their lease-space needs and make improvements as necessary when they do move into those spaces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like a commitment from the minister, when they are getting a new office building; they are going to lease a new office that is being built to lease to the government, that all their specs are all laid out so that you do not have to do tenant improvements fees. When you're getting a specked out new office building that is being built and going to be leased to the Government of Nunavut, generally, you know which departments are going in there and what their needs are. If we can just get a commitment that if there is any new construction, I am not talking about new leases; new construction, that it is built to the specs that are needed so that there will be no tenant improvement fees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the concern here, and we do want an ideal of a deal as we can.

Sometimes the Government of Nunavut does not construct these office spaces. It is private companies, but we do try to allow for a seamless approach where our

office needs are specified before we acquire a lease when they are being constructed.

I will take those comments; we are doing the best we can under the circumstances, and again, I think we do want to try to minimize costs on tenant improvements on these spaces, but this fund is necessary on some existing facilities that our employees or client departments work out of. Some are quite dated, but this is to try to get them up-to-date and specified to the client's needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just before I go back to Mr. Savikataaq, I am not sure that there is a full understanding. Oftentimes the Government of Nunavut puts out a request for proposals for a new office space, and then the building is constructed to meet those parameters.

I believe the member is requesting the minister to confirm that these funds for tenant improvements wouldn't be used for new buildings because those decisions could be communicated at the time of the construction during the request for proposal process so that it could be built to the configuration that the Government of Nunavut is requesting. Am I summarizing that correctly, Mr. Savikataaq? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do try to do that on a case-by-case basis, but again, whether it is a brand-new building constructed, and we have an RFP, we do try to get that in place beforehand.

Again, this fund also deals with existing lease spaces, not just newly constructed

office buildings, so it deals with both.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I have nothing against tenant improvement fees for existing buildings; that is understandable. This was just for new construction, but I will move on.

The Parking Garage Program; there was \$6 million for prior years there. Were all of those funds spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the 2023-24 intake planning phases, we recommended approval for six projects. We have: Arctic Bay for \$500,000 for a three-bay garage; Baker Lake for \$126,000 for a six-bay garage; Kimmirut, \$126,000 also for a six-bay garage, and Pangnirtung for \$126,000, planning for a six-bay garage; Resolute Bay for \$250,000 for a six-bay garage, and Whale Cove, \$70,000 for a five-bay garage. All of these are for planning and design costs that we are recommending forward, as Chesterfield Inlet for \$231,569. That is the previous year's planning approval. For design, approving \$250,000, Gjoa Haven. It had been approved for \$231,000 for planning, and another \$250,000 for design. Lastly, Sanikiluaq; \$39,550 is for planning, and recommending approval for \$131,250 into the design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just asking if it was all spent. I took a quick calculation, and I think the answer is: no. I don't think those amounts added up to \$6 million. Can the minister confirm that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much of that money was carried over, then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: If you can just give us a second here; hold on. Sorry, my apologies. I don't have the definitive amounts, but I think it in the tune of \$5 million that we are carrying over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A rough guess is that \$5 million is being carried over from \$6 million, and you're asking this year for \$8 million. Can we get an explanation as to why you are asking for another \$8 million when you have not spent the \$5 million? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good question on that.

This program is meant to frontload the funds in anticipation of construction. The planning and design are usually not the higher costs of building, so once we move into construction, we anticipate that those that are completing design we would spend probably be the bulk of it, if not, even all of the funds dedicated to this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, just to be clear, then the \$5 million and the \$8 million, which is \$13 million, will all be spent before the end of the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We continue to get new proposals in on a year-to-year basis. With that, once we do the planning and this is a four-year phased approach for each application, where in year one is planning, year two is design, and then years three and/or four would be construction of the parking garages.

Hopefully, yes, within the four years, we would spend the entirety, but we are anticipating there will be additional applications to meet the hamlets' needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the same question again: does the minister anticipate spending the \$13 million by the end of the next fiscal year? He talked about it is a four-year program, but my question

was: is the \$13 million all going to be spent within the next fiscal year? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope we do, that if everything according to plan and working with the hamlets. Going back to the carryover amounts; my official did find that the prior year's capital carryover for this program was \$1,497,000, and not the \$5 million that we previously stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. They hope to spend it; we hope they approve it.

Going onto the next one, my next topic is the GN surplus for demolition. There is a \$3 million request for that, and there are 10 buildings on the Department of Community and Government Services' list to be either surplus, demolished, or whatever.

There is one in there from Arviat. It is the oldest building; 1960. It also happens to belong to the Department of Community and Government Services. How is it prioritized on what gets demolished or what happens? Most of these are fairly old, so I imagine it might get demolished, but can we get an explanation how it is decided to spend the \$3 million for these 10 buildings that are on the list? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are anticipating that and

we will work in consultation with municipalities on which ones we want to prioritize and also looking at which asset... I guess if there is a higher risk associated to those, but it is something that my department has been wanting to get done. Hopefully through this budget, we will get some buildings remediated and/or remove assets that are derelict and badly needed to be taken down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has a cost assessment been done on each one of these to the cost to demolish it?

If my memory serves me correctly, there was a project in Sanikiluaq to dismantle/demolish the old air terminal building, and I believe the budget was at \$800,000 for that one building, and if my memory serves me correctly too, it was not that big of a building. Have there been cost estimates done on any of these 10 buildings that are listed? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in supplement to the previous response that I provided on which ones we are prioritizing, we are wanting to allow municipalities, looking at the land of these assets that are being demolished, that would serve a better purpose for that space. We want to try to get other types of infrastructure or housing in there. Keeping that in mind, we are trying to move forward.

To the last question, yes, we have cost estimations for demolition project costs for the Naujaat pump house; it is approximately \$30,000. For the old health centre and garage in Naujaat, \$977,000; Baker Lake, the old hospice is at \$1.3 million; the old Community and Government Services trades shop in Arviat, \$165,000; the old Nunavut Arctic College buildings in Cambridge Bay, \$1,285,000. There are six asset numbers associated, and then the Igloolik Adult Education Building estimated cost is at \$370,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope them good luck, because some of these derelict buildings become a safety hazard and it's good to get rid of them if nobody wants them if they're just sitting there.

Going on to another topic, fire halls replacement, up until a few years ago, there was an actual schedule there where you had a schedule for fire hall replacements, and Arviat was on the list and now there is no list at all. Never mind Arviat not being on the list, there is no more list, so can we get an explanation? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the new design funding, Local Government Priorities line item that we're requesting \$5 million for, we wanted to move forward on such things such as new fire halls, including the one for Arviat. That is one that we would like to move forward into

the design and eventual construction.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the minister said that they want to make a fire hall on the design in Arviat. There is a difference between wanting to and going to. Can we get a little more commitment than wanting to? Sometimes I want to buy something, but I just can't. Can we get a bit more of a commitment from the minister? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pending approval of this \$5 million, my department has identified three municipal projects to complete the design process and ready to advance at the beginning of 2024-25 fiscal year: the Arviat fire hall, Whale Cove fire hall and the Igloodik maintenance garage; those three projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. I approve the budget. That's all I have now, thank you.

Chairman: If I may just add onto that, there used to be a fire hall replacement specific line item. Now with it being just to municipalities, what type of priority ranking is there going to be? Obviously health and safety is one of the parameters for most prioritization plans.

Now that the fire halls are competing with parking garages and other pieces of municipal infrastructure, is it going to

slow down the Fire Hall Replacement Program the way it was designed previously? Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't say so. We don't want to slow down anything. If anything, we want to move forward in a more seamless way for local priority projects, such as fire halls, but we are looking at these projects when they are being considered under this local government priorities design funding. It would allow for projects to move from planning to design between six to nine months earlier than anticipated, and again, working with municipalities on which projects need to come forward based on their priorities lists. We do not want to slow down the process. In fact, we want to move forward in a more expedited way on local government priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I just have a follow-up, if the committee will indulge me. The way normal capital planning and design works, the minister himself used an example earlier; the planning work, the design work, and then one, two, or maybe three years of construction. If the planning comes to fruition on a project, such as the fire hall in Arviat, would it have to wait until the next capital planning budget requests, where you could lose those six to nine months of time if the planning is done, or is anticipated that the government will come forward with supplemental appropriations to meet the capital targets that they are planning? Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back, for local priority projects such as fire halls, hamlet office

buildings, community halls, arenas and those types of infrastructure, we want for those to be closer to shovel-ready projects in a quicker way.

What we found too is that our department, since we are dealing with competing priorities with other departments, hamlets have felt that pressure around competing for the same dollars, but with this local government design funding program, it would allow for the design cost to be readily available.

We wouldn't have to come back to this Assembly for that. Instead, we would proceed with those municipally led priorities to go into design and eventual shovel-ready, and hopefully into construction, as well as if there are any federal funds that are available that those projects are eligible for, we can execute those, and hopefully it will alleviate some of the capital costs or capital pressures that we have seen across the board. This is meant to support municipalities on what their priorities are at the local level through my department, and having funds dedicated so that we don't have to come back for design to the Assembly on those projects.

The capital planning process will continue as we have, coming back each year for departmental requests, but this specific line item will be for hamlet-specific infrastructure that we want to move into design and hopefully into eventual construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I will leave it at that. The next name I have on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to go back to yesterday's question. I just want more information on, as it was stated, the time when the federal provincial-territorial ministers of infrastructure had their meeting in June of this year. Ministers discussed the considerable number of investments and projects completed through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and also the successful allocation of all of the federal funding. Even though this was already asked, I just have a few lines of questions on this.

After that meeting with the ministers and the commitment to ensuring these investments, can you tell this House if it was successful? Was there success in this amongst the minister?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Those federal-provincial-territorial meetings I would say are quite informative and are useful for all of the jurisdictions in learning around best practices and also what is going on around infrastructure around the country.

I think it was successful in that we were able to highlight and show to the rest of Canada our unique realities and priorities could be different than southern jurisdictions, in particular. I'll use public transport as an example. There is heavy infrastructure spending by southern jurisdictions on trains, public transportation, subways, and all of that, whereas in Nunavut, of course, those are nonexistent. That is one example of us telling Canada and other

jurisdictions we work in different realities and different environments.

I think it is successful in that way and we will continue to impart that and making sure our needs are heard and understood by the rest of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After that meeting, in your ministerial department, how do you feel? Can you tell us where we are at now after that, up to today? Where are we at now?

(interpretation) As residents of Nunavut, what can we anticipate? Has this provided a jolt to your department causing you to understand that this requires dedication and deeper commitment to provide further assistance? This includes debates to consider new ideas after this report. Those are the questions I wanted to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for her question regarding where we stand now. The federal funding is governed by a contribution agreement through the (interpretation ends) Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (interpretation) and this is the largest fund we have received to date specifically allocated to Nunavut.

This agreement is also scheduled to lapse as it is ending soon and will require renegotiations to finalize a new agreement. At this time, the funds can be

used up to the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 2034. These funds are specific to Nunavut, and we must expend this amount prior to that date.

Nonetheless, on top of the need to renegotiate an agreement, we have attempted to provide a deeper understanding to the Government of Canada about the expectations that Nunavummiut have and with our needs for more infrastructure in Nunavut. We do that with the help of the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't currently have any other names on my list. Under page J-5. Infrastructure. \$45,100,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you. Please turn to page J-7. Information Management. Information Technology. \$21,160,000. I will give committee members just a moment to get to the correct page. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your predecessor, in correspondence to MLAs on September 17, 2021 indicated that the Government of Nunavut had submitted a proposal to the federal government's Universal Broadband Fund. In June of this year, the Legislative Assembly approve a \$79,000 capital carryover for desktop studies in relation to the government's submission to the Universal Broadband Fund. As of today, what is the status of this submission? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We do have, with that application, some favourable indication that we've gotten, but there is no agreement we have signed yet on that specific application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On June 8, 2022, your department issued *Request for Proposals 2022-38: Katittuq Nunavut Fibre-Undersea Fibre Optic Cable System*. On February 22, 2023, you wrote correspondence to all Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning this request for proposal indicating that since no compliant bids were within the approved budget for the project, the department is not in a position to award a contract at this time.

Your procurement process remains open while the department evaluates its options to advance this project. As of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. As I shared before, we didn't proceed with the best and final offer for the request for the proposal that we had issued and it was cancelled in April 2023. At this time, we are trying to find additional alternative sources to move forward with this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This one is very important to me, so I'll be asking: on November 01, 2022 the Legislative Assembly was informed that the Government of Nunavut had entered into a formal non-disclosure agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated concerning the fibre project. As of today, how are the two organizations cooperating on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quqqiaq. Maybe you were out of the House when that question was asked earlier. You can take a look at the *Blues* and you can see the minister's response for that. Do you have any other questions?

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have a look at the *Blues* and I'll take it from there.

Your department's 2023-24 capital estimates included \$3.5 million for communication technology infrastructure upgrades. What upgrades are being undertaken with this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Upgrades would include: services such as communication data centre generators, new technology projects, community systems infrastructure ever-greening, community network infrastructure ever-greening, and voice systems infrastructure ever-greening. There are costs associated to each of those and we expect that for 2024-25, \$5 million would be expended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You spoke of \$5 million; your department's 2024-25 proposed capital estimates include \$5 million in funding for communication technology infrastructure upgrades. What specific upgrades are planned to be undertaken with this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for the same items that I listed earlier. That is for every year to spend that much on those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. I will give my colleagues a chance to ask some questions.

Your department's five-year capital plan indicates that the annual budget amount for this project will increase by \$5 million per fiscal year, beginning in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

However, your department's capital substantiation sheet for this project indicates that your department plans to request a \$12-million budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. How will the final amount be determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my last question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. I am trying to find where my colleague is referencing the \$12 million because our substantiation sheet for communications technology infrastructure upgrades is five years, every year, for a total of \$25 million from 2024 to 2029. Thank you, Mr. Chairman; if I could get some clarification.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe the member is looking at the proposed future capital estimates as well, including, from what I understand, a \$12-million budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year in the substantiation sheet. Minister Joanasie

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. That part is a road map that our Information Technology Division has outlined, but for that fiscal year we are anticipating those costs of \$5 million every year. We are trying to move forward with that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Information Management/Information Technology. Amount being requested is \$21,160,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please turn to page J-9. Although there is no budget being allocated, do members have questions? Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister enlighten us on why there is no more budget? I have an idea; maybe all of the compliances are done now, but if the minister can elaborate on why there is no more

budget, when it has been pretty consistent for the last year and the year before that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Aside from our PPD Small Capital Minor Projects, we don't anticipate any additional funds are necessary at this point for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had anticipated seeing some funds here because of the committee from the operations and maintenance side was requesting that the minister look at the possibility of selling bulk propane in 100-lbs. and 20-lbs. bottles, and you might need capital funds to house these, so why do we see no capital funds to house propane that most committee members had wanted Community and Government Services to sell it in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do you recall that? Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, although we are looking at that as an option, we aren't moving forward yet with the infrastructure required to allow for those sales to happen. It is still something as an option we are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if you can give

me a little leeway here; when will the option be presented to the members here of when the decision either not to sell or to sell propane in 20-lb or 100-lb bottles, and I will connect it in a way that they may need capital infrastructure to store the propane that is going that is going to be sold to communities that desperately want and need it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy outline some of the requirements that would entail, but then again, I think for PPD, we do of course, through the fuel price, absorb costs for any capital items that are needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, PPD's small capital appropriation is being prioritized toward important compliance measures and upgrades to liquid fuel distribution systems, including reconfiguring tank systems in places like Clyde River and Kugaaruk.

The sale of propane would be a retrofit and be a separate project and a new product line to be incorporated into a PPD's sale model. It is not currently contemplated as part of this appropriation, and particularly, in communities like Arviat, where the tank farm location is still something that is being decided, any kind of retrofit to incorporate the sale of propane and propane-related accessories would need to be built into that new tank farm configuration.

It is unlikely that we will be seeing any movement on this here, a) because we are not asking for any funding for it, and in particular, a retrofit like that on a tank farm that will be reconfigured and rebuilt, might not be the best investment, recognizing a new one is going to be established in the immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this will be my last question. The deputy minister just stated that they are prioritizing, for lack of a better word, gasoline; liquid products. Can the official explain how it's a priority when there are zero dollars in the budget? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in regard to the small capital Petroleum Products Division expense that my official was referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm disappointed that there is no capital estimate for 2024-25 even though, like you mentioned, the small capital projects. What made you make that decision when the communities are lacking... ? Is it because you did your tour visiting the communities doing the inspections on the sites with the tanks; how they are positioned, how old they are, the linings? What made you decide that we don't have the budget for 2024-

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

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll take a bit of step back and point out that we do have, through the Petroleum Products Division, a major infrastructure plan for Arviat. That's our top priority in terms of building a new tank farm for the community to support the growing needs.

However, alongside that, my department does have a small capital petroleum products and minor projects and upgrades that do occur on a year-to-year basis. It's a \$1 million amount and this covers costs and expenses for upgrades and replacements of assets and infrastructure at the local level. These projects are identified, planned and designed in year one and then tendered and constructed in the following years. This is an ongoing year-to-year exercise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. My colleague was really happy with that response and I, too, will support this.

However, (interpretation ends) under small capital projects, with PPD properties in each community with tank farms, lines, gas stations and whatnot that relates to the service, (interpretation) with the \$1 million you mentioned, (interpretation ends) is it first come first served (interpretation) regarding

communities that fill in applications first? I would like to meet with you and the communities I represent, if that is the case. I would like to understand the application process or to know whether they wait for the system for improvements that are required in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1 million annual budget for petroleum products is also targeted towards minor capital. If it's less than \$250,000 it is included under operational funding, and if there are any surplus funds available, then it can be used for the fuel delivery if the fuel can't be transferred to the tank that requires immediate repair services.

Furthermore, all communities require local fuel depots with fuel available to aircrafts. This fund is used to provide services to the communities if they are running into issues, such as this scenario.

Furthermore, we also have funds for upgrading fuel tanks that may require work or repairs. Just to use this example; in Clyde River we had to provide this repair service and this project has already been completed.

We moved ahead with that project, though that tank had a different source of fuel. It was (interpretation ends) diesel, (interpretation) rather than (interpretation ends) jet A-1 (interpretation) fuel that they were able to distribute through Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for explaining that for me further. I wanted to know if the funding is application-based for improvements in the community, for example to a building, and that's why I was asking that question.

Can we invite you or your officials to come and do a tour? For example, if we wanted to start a small capital project, could we invite you to assist us in getting an application in? Or if we wanted somebody to come and check our petroleum products or help us with the application, do you provide any assistance with application forms? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to provide further clarification, every community, through (interpretation ends) contract, (interpretation) is provided operational funding for fuel services, both for the fuel tank farms, safety requirements, as well as the local fuel deliveries to housing units and government buildings.

The local contractors, if their fuel delivery equipment or transferral spigots break down, this fund of \$1 million is used towards these repairs instead of coming out of their operational funds so that they can continue to provide these daily fuel needs. The fuel delivery service has to run daily, both the fuel trucks and local vehicles require fuel in every community.

Additionally, every building has a furnace running on diesel fuel and they all require fuel delivery and we need to provide this service daily, which is why this fund is specific for fuel delivery repairs so as to not impact daily operational needs. I hope this clarifies some of the confusion, Mr. Chairman and I hope I am clear in my response.

To give an example, if a community runs into a local emergency or are required to declare a state of emergency based on fuel service difficulties, this has to be clearly provided to the (interpretation ends) Petroleum Products Division (interpretation) as well as other emergency management service divisions as our preference is to never have this type of emergency in any community.

To provide more detail, let me reiterate that this fund of \$1 million is not provided through applications. It is specific to the local contractors who face emergency repair needs in any of their local fuel resource delivery systems. This is for immediate repair needs, and that is the only time these funds are appropriated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining how the \$1 million is used. Please, Mr. Chairman, if I get too far ahead and it is not appropriate, you can stop me with the question I am going to ask as I want further clarification. In 2018-19 to 2020-21 (interpretation ends) annual reports of Petroleum Products Division was tabled at the Legislative Assembly on March 14 of this year, 2023. The division's 2021-22 and 2022-

23 annual reports have not yet been tabled at the Legislative Assembly.

When will these annual reports be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I remember correctly, yesterday I tabled the 2021-22 annual report. If you did not see it, it is available. We will table other annual reports at an appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. I am not sure if it just didn't come clearly for me, but for the next tabling report of the 2022-23, I just got it as "at an appropriate time." What is an appropriate time? Sorry. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) My apologies. Although this isn't the statutory tabling requirement, we do try to put forward information for members to know what the division deals with.

Once we close out a year, making sure all the financial audits are done and the reports get prepared afterwards, so I cannot say for certain when this House can expect the next annual report, but once I do have that information, I will be sure to share with the committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name that I have on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask questions in line with my colleague's question regarding (interpretation ends) small capital (interpretation) funding.

Do you inspect the fuel tank farms in the communities to see whether there is any water in the tanks within Nunavut?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Though it's an O&M question, I would say, I will just say that the contractors do report and just do dips every month, on a monthly basis and they do inspections regularly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I am not sure if it was... I believe what the member is trying to get at is the testing of the fuel itself; how often that is tested to see if there are contaminants in the fuel?
Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. There is regular testing throughout the process when it is getting delivered as well as upon delivery to ensure quality is still there, and there are measures that the division does in order to ensure that standards are maintained in the quality of fuel that each community uses throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. I have no more names on my list. Just before I move on, I am going to bring up an issue that was brought forward previously.

Previously, there was a legislative proposal to create a standalone petroleum products, not a division, but a corporation. In addition to that, it has been brought forward to look at a capital replenishment-type fund, similar to what Qulliq Energy Corporation does. Is that on the department's radar still? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. I will just say that yes, it is still on our radar, and it is an option we want to pursue further, and we hope to come back to the committee on our way forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just to confirm that we are now finished with page J-9. Please go back to page J-2. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditure being requested: \$157,139,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie, any closing comments?

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank all of the members for their questions and interest on Community and Government Services' capital items, especially as it pertains to municipally led projects. We wish to empower the hamlets as best we can for them to be more self-sustaining.

I would like to thank my both my officials that are here, but also those that

have been working diligently in the background to allow for me to be well-prepared to stand before you. The next department up will be another interesting one, so thank you for your interest, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I will ask members to remain in your seats. We will move immediately to opening comments for Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

**Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2024-2025 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to welcome the committee back. Before us, we have the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have any officials you would like to appear with you?

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

Chairman: Thank you. Do committee members agree to allow the witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go ahead. Thank you. If you can just introduce your officials, then proceed with your opening comments, minister.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This seat is hot.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, to my right is Eiryn Devereaux, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my left is Juanie Pudluk, Associate President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I am here today to present the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Capital Plan for 2024-25. Mr. Chairman, the capital plan consists of \$82,669,000 from the Government of Nunavut and \$28,290,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). CMHC's funds include \$24 million through the National Housing Strategy and \$4.29 million under the Social Housing Agreement. These funding sources bring the total NHC capital budget for 2023-24 to \$110,959,000.

The proposed 2024-25 NHC capital funding from the GN is approximately \$28 million less than the prior year. Although this gap, combined with the increased cost of construction, are challenging, an efficient use of the funds will allow NHC to move forward with scheduled planning and programming. To help address this, we continue to actively lobby the federal government to ensure they understand the challenges of delivering housing in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, in fiscal year 2024-25, the housing corporation will continue to implement the Nunavut 3000 strategy, which aims at delivering 3000 new units by 2030. Strategic collaboration is a key to this important initiative, including the partnership agreement signed with NCC Development Limited to build up to 2000 of the anticipated 3000 units. We were pleased to also enter into strategic partnership with the Canada Housing

Transformation Centre to create a Nunavut Growth Fund at approximately \$1.3 million to support existing and emerging not-for-profits entities interested in developing affordable housing in our territory. Strategic partnerships such as these will help to grow and strengthen the housing sector in Nunavut.

Government of Nunavut funding for public housing is proposed to decrease from \$70 million in 2023-24 to \$40 million in 2024-25, partly in relation to the other competing Government of Nunavut demands on capital across the territory. We recognize that the large increase in 2023-24 to \$70 million was not necessarily going to continue at that level every year and was a kick start to the Nunavut 3000 program. This funding will be used to build and/or acquire units for public housing in communities with the greatest need, as part of the Nunavut 3000 strategy. The housing corporation is targeting 178 new public housing units to commence in 2024-25; an increase from the 150 public housing units started in 2023-24. The corporation will target its surplus funds, including 3rd party funding sources, to offset the decrease GN funding for public housing in 2024-25.

The corporation capital funding for homeownership programs remains at \$4 million, the same as 2023-24. The corporation has been working diligently over the past six months to design and develop a modernized suite of homeownership and affordable rental programs. We anticipate bringing this new suite of programs forward this winter and we are working with the MLA Housing Task Force to seek feedback. We are looking at increasing

funding amounts and eligibility so we can support more Nunavummiut as we accelerate the housing supply. I am pleased to see that we are proposing a new modern version of the HAP program as well as new affordable housing incentives for both rental and homeownership.

Mr. Chairman, the corporation is seeking \$1 million funding for the Fire Damage and Replacement Fund. These funds will be used for minor and major repairs due to fire damage. As of March 31, 2023, the corporation has \$9,429,000 from previous years allocated to complete unit replacement projects. These available funds will be used throughout 2023-24 and 2024-25 as we build new public housing units across all 25 communities.

The housing corporation's proposed 2024-25 Mobile Equipment Fund of \$1.56 million will see an increase of \$170,000 over the prior year. This increase is to allow NHC and local housing organizations to replace vehicles at the lower of 100,000 kilometres or every seven years. The increase is also attributed to a higher cost of procuring vehicles and an increased number of units for local housing organizations.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's local housing organization warehouse facilities are over 20 years old on average, with many requiring significant maintenance and repairs. The housing corporation's local housing organization warehousing fund will increase to \$7.36 million for 2024-25. NHC is currently completing construction of the new Sanikiluaq warehouse, and we are in the design phase for local housing organization warehouse replacement facilities in Cambridge Bay and Arviat.

Unfortunately, NHC is experiencing significant challenges in relation to high construction costs, so we are currently looking at innovative options and designs to allow for replacement or procurement of local housing organization warehouses, including a move towards more economical pre-engineered warehouse type facilities. We are also looking at opportunities to purchase existing warehouses in any communities which have such facilities for sale.

Mr. Chairman, there is no change from last year in mould assessment and remediation funding, which is proposed at \$7 million. Over the past 6 years, the corporation has spent over \$33 million to address mould in public housing units and has remediated 230 units in 15 communities. In 2024-25, corporation plans to undertake mould assessments for approximately 82 units in 13 communities.

Modernization and improvement (M&I) for NHC owned public housing units will remain consistent with the previous fiscal year with \$10 million in funding. The targeted total investment of \$14.3 million, including CMHC's contribution, is still 20 percent under the best practice funding target of \$40 million. Nearly half or 50 percent of NHC's public housing units are over 25 years old. Significant work is required to bring units in the worst conditions up to an acceptable health and safety standard.

Staff housing capital funding will remain the same at \$10 million for 2024-25. This will allow NHC to pursue construction of approximately 10 new staff houses. Construction and leasing priorities are discussed and determined

in consultation between the NHC and Department of Human Resources.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, NHC is seeking \$629,000 for 2024-25 to upgrade LHO offices to a modern structured cabling system that is cost-effective, flexible, easy to manage, reduces downtime and enhances network security. We anticipate this initiative to cost approximately \$1.12 million and NHC will seek the remaining capital funds in 2025-26.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to a meaningful discussion. My officials and I are available to hear your questions and/or comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, 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 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$82,669,000.

The ongoing shortage of public housing in all of Nunavut's communities is an issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. The April 2022 federal budget announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$845 million in indigenous-specific housing funding for Inuit communities over seven years. The

extent to which Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami are working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to identify specific projects for this funding remains unclear.

On August 24, 2022, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited announced the signing of an “Agreement in Principle to pursue a strategic partnership in relation to the delivery of much-needed transitional, public, affordable and market housing units across the territory.”

On October 18, 2022, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited announced the signing of a formal “Master Partnership Agreement.” This agreement, as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s new “Nunavut 3000” strategy, were publicly released on the same day. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of implementing this agreement and the new strategy. The extent to which the new Nunavut 3000 Strategy will complement the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s existing Blueprint for Action strategy remains unclear.

On April 28, 2023, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development announced the signing of “design-build contracts for 150 new public housing units to start construction in fall of 2023.” Prior to the launch of the Nunavut 3000 strategy, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s methodology for determining new public housing construction allocations was formula-driven and based on relative need.

Members continue to emphasize the importance of ensuring that Nunavut residents have confidence in the accuracy and transparency of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s approach to verifying waitlist numbers, and continue to recommend that the minister table, on an annual basis and in a timely manner, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s updated allocation methodology, community allocations, and community waitlists.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for the construction of new staff housing units. However, the exact process by which the Nunavut Housing Corporation determines the specific communities in which new staff housing is to be constructed is not entirely clear.

Members continue to note that the current role of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s board of directors in approving planned public and staff housing construction community allocations is unclear.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of replacing public housing units that have been destroyed by fire. Members have raised concerns regarding the continued lack of clarity about how the Nunavut Housing Corporation manages the fire damage replacement program. Members note that information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated that it has been working “towards developing a new policy to address the rebuild of fire-damaged units and how new construction may be addressed to meet the needs of

communities.” Although members recognize that the minister is not statutorily required to table such policies, they encourage the minister to choose to do so after the new policy has been formally approved by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

On November 7, 2019, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Homeownership Program review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. One of the recommendations contained in the report was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation should “consolidate programs related to purchasing or building a home into a [single] homeownership program and consolidate programs related to home repairs, maintenance and renovation into a [single] home improvement program.” The extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation intends to implement this and other recommendations remains unclear.

Members continue to emphasize the importance of ensuring ease of access to information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s homeownership programs, especially in smaller communities. Members continue to emphasize the importance of providing timely decisions on applications submitted under its homeownership programs.

Members note that information and application materials concerning the new Renewable Energy Homeowners Grant Program are now available on the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s website. Members also note that information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to indicate that its Tenant to Owner Program is “currently

suspended pending further review.” Members continue to encourage the minister to table the results of the review at the earliest opportunity.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s most recently-tabled annual report indicates that “eligibility criteria for homeownership programs includes income testing ... the adjusted household income is measured relative to a community-specific Homeownership Program Income Eligibility Limit. Homeownership Program Income Eligibility Limits are derived from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Housing Income Limits.” Members note that the Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limits have not been updated since October 2014. Members continue to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to regularly review its Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limits to reflect the high cost of living in Nunavut’s isolated communities.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. Members continue to recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by local housing organizations.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for its ongoing “Mould Assessment and Remediation” initiative. Members look forward to ongoing

updates on the status of this important work.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's five-year capital plan indicates that funding will be allocated on an annual basis for its Local Housing Organization Workshop, Warehouse and Administrative Offices replacement project. Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that the design and construction of new local housing organization facilities in Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloolik and Gjoa Haven will be undertaken in coming years. In February 2023, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for tenders for the construction of the new Cambridge Bay facility. However, information published by the government indicates that the tender was subsequently "cancelled due to budgetary constraints." The extent to which the corporation's current five-year capital plan includes adequate funding for this work is unclear.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-25 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, I'll go to the first name on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question will be related to the minister's opening comments. Over the last number of years, I have been wondering [about] the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital carryovers and I do note that several

substantiation sheets do include information about carryover of funds for specific projects, but in your opening comments you noted that although there is a reduction in the public housing fund from \$70 million down to \$40 million, NHC will target its surplus funds to offset the decrease.

As I had indicated, there is some information about the carryover for project-specific funds, but I was wondering if you would be able to give an update today as to what the total amount of carryover of Vote 2 and Vote 4 funds are for capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To keep it short; about \$180 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. We have a total carryover of \$180 million Vote 2, as well as Vote 4, plus another \$82 million in Vote 2, and it was noted the actual Vote 4 funds that were included as well; \$24 million in CMHC funds. So that brings the total to \$285 million, ballpark, in capital funds that are available for Nunavut Housing Corporation to utilize in 2024-25. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: That would be correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that confirmation, minister. I am very excited about the potential in the Nunavut 3000 strategy and I would like to wish the Nunavut Housing Corporation the best in your endeavours to accomplish the potential utilizing that \$280 million currently available.

I would like to move on to my next question. In May of this year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation released an RFP for project director services for the Nunavut 3000 program and that RFP was subsequently cancelled. I was just curious to what extent the cancellation of this RFP would impact the development of the Nunavut 3000 strategy as well as NHC's 2024-25 construction plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the line of questioning. I agree; I hope that we are able to take the housing corporation as whole to a whole new level, and with the contributions and in terms of the program and the housing work that we are doing collectively between the regular members and myself, I think we have a great opportunity to improve housing stock and how housing programs are administered and delivered. I truly believe we can get there.

In terms of the details in the RFP, if I could have, through you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Devereaux give details on that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We did, as the member had suggested, issue an RFP for a project director of services associated with Nunavut 3000 in the spring of this year and upon closing and review of the proposals, we didn't find any proposals that met the requirements, so we cancelled that undertaking.

In terms of impact to our ability to deliver Nunavut 3000, we have not seen this as having a major impact. Using in-house resources as well as some contract resources, we have been managing to cover the needs around project delivery and certainly, going forward, we will possibly look at going back out to market with another proposal, but in the interim, we're comfortable and confident that we can meet our requirements with where we are right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Devereaux for that response; no major impacts by the unsuccessful closure of that RFP. You had mentioned another RFP being put out and I do note that on September 14 the NHC issued another RFP for Nunavut 3000 project support. I was wondering if we would be able to get an update today on the status of that procurement process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that particular RFP, we

don't have any updates to give at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to my next question, the Home Renovation Program, which provides homeowners with \$50,000 in a forgivable loan plus an additional \$15,000 available for energy efficiency related items, for that additional piece for the energy efficiency related items, I was curious if the minister would be able to provide us and the House with an update on the utilization of that specific energy efficiency aspect of the Home Renovation Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2022-23, we have so many little acronyms in here; just let me find the right one. In 2022-23 we had 74 new applications on that and approved 67 of them in 2022-23, and we would like to see that continue to grow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to confirm, there were 73 applicants that had applied for the Home Renovation Program specifically for the \$15,000 energy efficiency aspect of the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of

detail. I can get it to my members, but we are getting subscriptions and applications for those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that commitment.

The Government of Canada has some very complementary programs under the Greener Homes program, including a \$6,000 grant as well as a \$40,000 interest-free loan for homeowners to apply for home efficiency upgrades and renovations. This federal program is very poorly promoted and advertised in Nunavut.

I have a recommendation that I'm hoping the minister would accept. I'm not very sure how well the NHC's \$15,000 energy efficiency aspect of the Home Renovation Program is currently being advertised and promoted towards homeowners, but I would like to ask if the minister would be able to increase the promotion and advertisement of that \$15,000 loan in addition to the complementary federal Greener Homes program to further incentivize and encourage homeowners in Nunavut to take advantage of these grants and loans and become more energy efficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree with Mr. Lightstone more. I think that is a great idea. With all the many little pockets of money that the different government or

non-government agencies do provide for greener energy, safer homes, and so on, we're constantly taking a look at that.

In fact, I've had many meetings with the CMHC and my federal counterparts and we're constantly working with them to try to make sure that the programs that Canada is providing are user-friendly to Nunavummiut and that they don't have little issues around land ownership and so on. There are some federal programs that tend to do that and we're constantly working with the federal counterparts and agencies to ensure that whatever programs are available, that we have equal access to those funds. The previous housing minister in fact had, in one of the programs, committed to ensuring to block a bunch of money off for us to use it first.

We will definitely take your idea and we will run with it. As we move forward on the suite of programs that my colleague is talking about, I look forward to introducing later in this fall the suite of programs that we would like to bring forward and be more user-friendly and easier to access and not so limiting to current and future homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. I've got a few more questions, so I'll try to be quick.

Moving on to the public housing substantiation sheet, on page 2, it indicates that the wait-list for public housing is now over 3,000 as of March 31, 2022. I was wondering if the minister has a more recent number of

individuals on the wait-list, possibly as of March 31, 2023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The latest one we have is around 3,100, plus or minus, Mr. Chairman. It's the latest numbers we have on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. As the opening comments of the chair of the economic development committee indicated, for a number of years now, the committee has been recommending that the Nunavut Housing Corporation amend the public housing allocation methodology as it's currently based on the public housing wait-list to the total public housing units in a given community. That's something that doesn't really capture, in my point of view, the true need of the community.

When the targeted public housing allocation in the Nunavut 3000 was developed, was the allocation based on the current public housing allocation methodology? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, the answer would be yes, Mr. Chairman, but keeping in mind that there are many communities across Nunavut that have not seen a public housing unit be built in their community because of the current

allocation system. We felt that as we move forward with the new housing strategy and with Nunavut 3000, it was important that we hit every community in Nunavut with some kind of new housing in the first two years, and because of that, yes, we follow that strategy, but we also decided, you know what? There are communities that haven't seen a new house in six or seven years and so we decided to do it across the board, release some pressures across the board and moving forward, two or three years from now, we hope to have some kind of a revised needs-analysis for housing builds, but in the first two years we wanted to hit every community at least once. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that response. I recall one member bringing that up on several occasions, a number of years since that community had received public housing, but I just wanted to make a recommendation with the desire to amend the public housing allocation methodology. Given that the public housing wait-list does fluctuate from year to year, if those on the wait-list do not update their application, if I recall correctly, they are removed. However, I think, as I indicated earlier, I don't feel that captures the true need of the community.

I feel that it would be more accurate to determine the full extent of the housing in a given community, whether it's public housing, staff housing, homeownership, market rentals, or affordable housing, capture everything in the housing continuum and divide that by the population of the community to

determine how many people there are per household on average. I think that would be a far more accurate and reliable method to determine the distribution of new construction builds. That's just a recommendation and I'm done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the course of the next day or two sitting here, I'm sure we're going to hear some great recommendations such as that and we will definitely put them into our binder and refer to them going down the road of finding a better allocation system. We're all ears and I'm sure we can find some suitable way of dealing with allocation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go to my next name, we will take a 15-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:53 and resumed at 18:15

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Malliki. Go ahead. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials.

I have a question on the minister's opening comments on page 3 at the bottom. I want to know if we have the same version of the opening comments. The minister said 10, but it refers to (interpretation ends) 12 new staff housing (interpretation) units here. I

would like to get clarification on that.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we will use \$10 million to build 12 new (interpretation ends) staff housing units. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that clarification. The mould remediation in public housing was listed at \$7 million per year. How many housing units were remediated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 13 communities in 2024-25 they will be working on approximately 24 housing units that have mould. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. For my next question: (interpretation ends) the 2022 federal budget announced \$845 million that is funded over seven years to support housing in Inuit communities. How much of this funding will be accessible by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to implement the new Nunavut 3000 strategy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That funding is earmarked for organizations such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated that got \$400 million. Not a dollar went to or is going to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I believe that's the same funding that is now being redistributed through the regional associations for the housing projects that they are putting out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$845 million is a large amount of funding that will be earmarked for Nunavut. It would be preferable to have the Nunavut Housing Corporation involved in this. Have they made any requests under this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding was not directed towards us, so we couldn't access any of it, Mr. Chairman. However, we support what they are doing. I'm not too concerned about who provides the funding or who will construct the housing units, as they provide more opportunities for housing. I support the entities that receive funding from the Canadian government and other sources to increase the housing stock. I support any funding that goes towards housing and I hope that the entire funding goes towards building housing units for Inuit. That's the main concern I

have when it comes to costs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) In May 2022, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated released its *Nunavut Inuit Housing Action Plan*. The plan indicates that new Inuit housing entities will ensure funding is used in the best way to improve housing for Inuit. Community members, municipalities, the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada are important partners. How many new units are planned to be constructed by the Inuit entities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support, as I said, any entity that is going to put money into and build more Inuit housing for Nunavummiut. That's the key, but in terms of the Government of Nunavut's input in that, we haven't had any input, although we stand ready to help wherever we can, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut 3000 strategy indicates on page 23 that 20 new public housing units were planned to be constructed in Kugluktuk as part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's "2023 build programs." However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's news release on April 28, 2023 indicates that 20 units are planned

for Gjoa Haven. What is the status of Kugluktuk's planned units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going over the numbers in terms of public housing units for Kugluktuk, the number stands at eight, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the public housing units in Nunavut, aside from Nauyasat, are there any other community in Nunavut that will be getting housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I don't quite understand what about Nauyasat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, if I could get clarification, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are there any public housing [units] that are allocated to the community but have been transferred to other communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. No. The community is allocated units and the communities will be receiving these units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. It's very good to hear that the communities will be allocated units. (interpretation ends) How many new public housing units are planned to be constructed as part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2024 build program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In total, we are planning to build 182 housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In which communities will they be constructed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2024-25, the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Kugaaruk, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq, Sanirajak, and

Whale Cove are where they will be constructed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for explaining that to me. (interpretation ends) When will the Nunavut Housing Corporation publish the updated community wait-lists? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time, but we will take a look at it in the coming months to give an updated public housing wait-list, Mr. Chairman, but definitely not this week and probably not until the new year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to (interpretation ends) staff housing. How many vacant staff housing units have been transferred to local housing organizations for use as public housing units during the current 2023-24 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact number before me, but it's definitely something that we do know and I will share it with you as soon as I can, in terms of how many staff housing units were transferred to the local housing associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On April 5, 2023 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals for the lease of public and staff housing units. How many new staff housing units have been leased as a result of the request for proposals and in which communities have they been leased? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Mr. Chairman, on that topic, we are still going through that process of finalizing numbers and putting out more RFPs. Mr. Chairman, as soon as we get some final numbers on that, that too, I would be more than happy to share it, but we don't have anything finalized as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just to get the confirmation, minister, do you have a timeline of when those figures would be available? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I anticipate within the next quarter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions left. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include \$10 million in voted funds for the construction of new staff housing

units. In which communities are the units planned to be constructed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We anticipate 20 units, not all in Kugaaruk, but in the following communities: Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Pangnirtung, Mittimatalik, Sanikiluaq, and Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for the clarification. (interpretation ends) In your letter to MLAs on May 9, 2022, you wrote that the Nunavut Housing Corporation "is seeking to add 126 new staff housing units in relation to agreements to purchase units from NCC." What is the status of this purchase and in which communities are the 126 units located? That is my last question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That has been completed and they are canvassed across the decentralized communities. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, they will be located in decentralized communities. What about the other

communities that are not decentralized?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): No, I'm not saying that, Mr. Chairman. The communities that are not decentralized do require housing as well, but the staff housing units were available and when there is housing available in non-decentralized communities, then we do take them and construct other units in non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister and your officials. I'll start off with some follow-up questions.

The new Inuit housing entity, it's clear that it's receiving funds from somewhere else, and I'm wondering whether or not there is any consideration now or in the future to be allocating any funding towards that entity as a part of the Nunavut 3000 strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster.

>> *Laughter*

Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just not clear; if we want to contribute money what entity? It's just that part I didn't understand, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, minister. Earlier, just a few minutes ago, there was a question about the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated *Nunavut Housing Action Plan*, and the plan indicated that a new Inuit housing entity, I guess of their creation, will ensure funding is used in the best way to improve housing for Inuit.

The minister did indicate that it is a Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated program, however, I am interested to know whether or not that partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated includes working with them towards the Nunavut 3000 strategy and whether or not that will entail funding coming or going to that said entity from the Government of Nunavut. I hope that is clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: It's clear to me. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Well, if it's clear to you, Mr. Chairman, then it's... .

>> *Laughter*

No, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. Yes, thank you for clearing that up. Mr. Chairman, that entity that is being stick-handled by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and we have said this to NTI, that if there is anything we could do in terms of helping them achieve their goals in terms of housing, if there are statistics, help, or some knowledge we have within the corporation, we would be more than happy to share that with them.

In terms of giving that entity funding at this time, no, we haven't had that kind of a discussion, but if there is an opportunity where we could work together on projects, we are more than open and ready to have that discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in an earlier response and in the minister's opening remarks, the minister stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is targeting 178 new public housing units to commence in 2024-25; an increase from the 150 public housing units started in 2023-24. In response to a question just a couple of minutes ago, the minister stated that there are 182 planned public housing units for the '24 build program. I'm just a little bit confused by those numbers. If the minister could clear that up, I would appreciate. What is the difference between the 178 mentioned in the opening remarks and then the 182 that was just quoted a few minutes ago? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difference would be four.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, it's a typo either way, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

In a situation like this, we were building six-plexes in communities and there was an opportunity to turn a couple of six-

plexes into eight-plexes, and that made up the difference in that, Mr. Chairman. The truer number is 182. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're making fun of my math skills and my pronunciation. I get nervous every time I sit here, so that's why I sometimes stumble on these things, but that was pretty funny.

I would just like to go back to another response regarding when Nunavut Housing Corporation will publish updated community waitlists. I'm really interested to know whether or not there are a broad set of standards for creating those waitlists and whether or not every community has the same standards for creating their waitlists, taking into account that every community is different and has different needs. However, I think it's really important. This is a question that comes to me from constituents on a regular basis, "I don't understand where I'm at on the waitlist," or "why somebody else is getting housing before me." If I could have a clear answer for constituents to put them at ease, that would be very helpful. What are the standards, if any, for creating community waitlists? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't mean to paint a broad stroke across the waitlist criteria, but it is generally the same criteria across the board, but it is implemented differently in some communities as the waitlists are

maintained by the local housing organizations across Nunavut. There are many different parameters that they do look at when they are working on waitlists; including adequacy and condition of current living conditions, based on a condition rating system, the affordability, community-specific factors are also included, and income needs, core needs, ability of individuals to find alternate housing, and a combination of other factors that are in there, Mr. Chairman.

I could assure our colleague that we are working, and when I say “we,” the housing corporation, through its regional offices, are working with the local housing organizations to try to ensure that the housing waitlists are not based on who you know, or nepotism I guess, but based on need. It has come a long way in that sense.

We are also working through the regional offices with the local organizations to try to streamline and make better the waitlists and be more open and user friendly, because I, too, hear from your constituents and mine, saying that one day they are next on the list, and when the houses were distributed last week, they didn’t get one of 20 or whatever that may be, which is really frustrating.

We are trying to get a handle on that and we are working with the local housing organizations to make it better streamlined and base it on need, and not on people, so there aren’t names on the waitlist. We are working on that and hope to have something concrete in terms of new waitlists and those details within the next quarter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I go back to Ms. Brewster, I would just like to get the minister to elaborate a little bit more on “appropriately housed.” We have a number of people that are couch surfing here in Iqaluit, we have shelters that people are utilize on a nightly basis, we have people living in tents waiting for their housing. So I think that seems to be one of the most confusing factors that I have had discussions with my constituents on. What is deemed “adequately housed?” Is 19 people living in a house adequately housed? Is somebody living in a tent adequately housed? Is somebody couch-surfing adequately housed? Minister, if you could elaborate a little bit, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish there was more adequately housed people across Nunavut, but definitely in terms of not-adequately housed, we follow the suitability overcrowding measures, as put out by the national occupancy standards. I think we all know, overcrowding is when you have more people in the house than there are bedrooms, and living space to put people in. In reality, there are very few people who are adequately housed right now because of the situation across Nunavut that we are working hard to fix. I think we have overcrowding than we do have people over-housed, but there is that situation where there are people who are over-housed and under-housed, and the local housing organizations are working to remedy that issue.

The lack of adequate housing is when you have more people in the house than the house is intended to be occupied by, following the Canadian standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you sure you don't have any more questions?

I would just like to go back to those standards for updating the waitlists. Just recently, in early October, the Iqaluit Housing Authority put out a call for the public to update their applications for housing, and the only place I saw it was on Facebook on Iqaluit Public Service Announcements. I happened to also receive a call just after that deadline, so I think it was put out on October 4, and the deadline was October 10.

Just shortly after that, I received a call from a unilingual elder who was looking to find more information about her housing application because she was running into problems and she hadn't heard about that callout to update her information. That really concerns me for a number of reasons. It's an issue of concern, not just for elders; it's an issue of concern for people who are inadequately housed, who may be living in tents, or living... I think under-housed or un-housed people have an incredible amount of work just to get through the day, and in Iqaluit, in particular, it is quite far to go to the Iqaluit Housing Authority. I have heard from a number of people that they find out that they have been pulled from that waitlist without their knowledge.

What I would like to know is whether or not those standards for creating the waitlist actually also include standards for removing people from the waitlist, and updating the waitlist, that takes into account the fact that people who are in perilous housing situations also often

have a number of issues that can impact their ability to be in constant contact to ensure that they are still on the housing list.

I would like some reassurance that people will not be arbitrarily removed from a housing waitlist due to the fact that they have not been calling every couple of weeks or every couple of months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a lot in that statement, but I will try my best to respond to them.

The local housing organizations have regular conversations and discussions with their tenants, and it is widely known, and maybe we should ask them to publicize more, that there are times, usually every spring and in the fall, where the information that they provided to the housing corporation needs to be updated, such as if you are homeless, how many children you have; that number changes, do you still require a unit, has your income changed, and if so, how?

There are a number of updates that people living in housing association houses and/or are on the housing waitlist have to continually update the housing association. So, there is some responsibility on people who are on the housing waitlist to contact their local housing organization to see where they are on the waitlist.

Usually in the fall, the people on the waitlist are notified from the last time

they were there as to when those updates should be, and maybe the local housing organizations need to do better in communicating that information; the requirement for the people who are on the housing waitlist, maybe the local organizations need to improve the way they communicate that.

I have seen posters in some communities, and have listened to community radio stations, where they have asked people to update their housing situation. That goes out to both people who are in public housing units and those who are trying to get into a public housing unit.

I think we can do better; when I say “we,” I mean housing associations, to have a better rapport and communication between tenants and those on the waitlist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister commit to creating a standard that allows people to be reinstated to their same spot on the waitlist if they have fallen off due to lack of ability or knowledge of the need to update their status? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations run their boards, and have their rules, procedures, and policies in terms of when and how an individual is accelerated or decelerated, in terms of where they are on the waitlist with a number of parameters around those.

I will ensure to communicate that NHC will communicate with the local housing organisations to take a look at how people are on and off the list or changed within the list to ensure that it is being done fairly and equitably. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I do appreciate that. I know that the Nunavut Housing Corporation and different housing corporations or organizations have tenant relations officers. Do those tenant relations officers participate in homelessness outreach work at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that outreach program is done through Family Services. Our tenant relations officers strictly work with tenant relations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Just going back to an earlier question as well about vacant staff housing units being transferred to local housing organizations for use as public housing units, I didn't write down the number of units that were transferred during the 2023-24 fiscal year. However, what I am interested in knowing is: what are the standards for transferring these vacant housing units to local housing organizations, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The minister committed to bringing that number back to us and that's why you don't have it, but to Ms. Brewster's question, minister.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I did not provide a number and as the Chairman said, when I get those numbers, we would provide them, but it's something that doesn't happen all the time. It becomes a situation where, if there is a community where we have an X number of staff housing units where we know we're not going to realize filling those positions or those houses with staff and the demand is there from the public housing, we would hand them over to public housing, but it's on an as-and-when situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be wise to have standards just so that everybody's integrity can be protected, so that there is transparency, and I'll leave it at that.

On the issue of staff housing, in the minister's opening remarks, he stated that the staff housing capital funding will remain at the same \$10 million for 2024-25. I'm just wondering whether or not... The minister will probably recall that last year, I brought up the issue of risk mitigation and suicide prevention. Actually, it might have been the minister for CGS that I had this discussion with; however, I'm sure you listen with great interest whenever we're talking to the other ministers as well.

When it comes to new builds as well as retrofits for staff housing as well as for public housing, has there been a

commitment and a follow-through to build units or retrofit units in order to mitigate the risk of death by suicide by ensuring that the fittings, such as curtain rods and closet rods, break away so that they're ligature resistant, so that people might have more difficulty in completing suicide within those units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's okay to have a difference in opinion, but in terms of your comment before; the question in terms of whether we should have standards in handing over staff housing units to public housing, it's so rare that creating standards might be a deterrent more than helpful. In terms of ensuring that they're suicide-proof, I guess, to put it, we ensure that none of the things like shower curtains and curtain rod hangers and stuff are rigid, and that they do fall off with very little effort. There are standards like that, that yes, we do keep those in mind. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I've just got one or two questions.

(interpretation) In Chesterfield Inlet, there are fire-damaged units that were built in the 1970s and 1980s. They're not in use, as they are (interpretation ends) boarded up. (interpretation) When I was last there, I asked what would happen to those buildings. They've been waiting to hear back from the housing corporation on what is going to be done those

buildings that are boarded up. I believe there are five of them, if it's not more than that. Will they be replaced in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the old buildings in Chesterfield Inlet were infested with mould or may contain asbestos. They have to be inspected, but the buildings that you are referring to as being boarded up that cannot be repaired, we've been thinking of demolishing them and constructing new buildings on those lots instead. That's what we're thinking of doing with those buildings in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that good response, minister. In response to an earlier question, you stated that new housing units will be constructed in Chesterfield Inlet in 2024-25. I would now like to ask: how many new housing units will Chesterfield Inlet be receiving? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are eight housing units for Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. I just want to get back to the question that my colleague, Mr. Malliki, asked earlier. I'll just read the question over, but I have another question after that.

The Nunavut 3000 strategy indicates on page 23 that 20 new public housing units were planned for construction in Kugluktuk as part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's "2023 build program." However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's news release of April 28, 2023 indicates that 20 new units are planned for Gjoa Haven.

In the Nunavut 3000 update on target public housing allocations by year, Kugluktuk is not getting any for 2023 or 2024. The 20 units went to Gjoa Haven. Can you elaborate on the cause? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kugluktuk will be getting, in 2022-23, they had five public housing builds; we're looking at public housing starts for 2024 at eight and then 2026 at ten, 2028 at ten, and then 2030 at another eight. We're forecasting about 40 units into Kugluktuk, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our last communication you and I had, I asked you how many new units Kugluktuk would be getting next year, and the answer you gave me was 12. Now, the amount is 8. What was

the cause of that? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 12 being built into Kugluktuk; four of them are staff house units, and eight of them are public housing units, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that. I was thinking they were just public units. I never thought of staff housing, so that is cleared.

I don't know if you can answer this, but maybe I'll go with it anyway; how often does your department meet with regional housing hubs, like Cambridge Bay, for instance, for the Kitikmeot? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're in constant communication, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This might be my last question. The reason I asked that is because a constituent has been trying to get their house refurbished or more like rehabilitation for the house because they've had that house for, I don't know how long now. They have been trying to get something going on refurbishing their house. I think it's going on to three

years now. Every time they call the regional hub in Cambridge Bay, the questions they are asking, like: when are the supplies or funding, or when are they going to start on refurbishing their house. They never answered that person's question and there is always no answer.

Sometimes I think if I contact them myself, they're probably just going to do the same thing too, so that is why I asked. That is something that needs to be looked at, I think; the regional hubs not really answering the wishes of our beneficiaries that own houses. They are helping with owning their house. They are giving everybody else a chance to have a house and we are all in a shortage of housing, so that is what I wanted to hear. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a suite of programs that the housing corporation is working on and making some changes to. I look forward to putting those new programs out, and through that I hope the department, through its regional hubs, and otherwise we will be able to deliver some of the programs in a more timely manner and improve our communication. I realize we have to do better on that front, and we are committed to doing that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: That was it.

Chairman: The next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster again.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to that issue of transferring vacant staff housing units to local housing organizations.

I hear what the minister is saying about it being very rare, however, I would like some reassurance that perhaps that a lawyer's advice or legal advice sought before making the transfers. I really feel like it is important to be reassured that there is as much transparency and I'm looking for reassurance that everything is... . Of course, I'm sure it would all be above board, however, I just feel it's really important when we are talking about transferring any assets to a different organization, that legal advice is sought. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short, I wouldn't expect anything less from the corporation but that everything is done above board, Mr. Chairman, and this is no exception. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just lost my page here. Sorry. I am interested now in talking about the staff condominium program. Under this program, up to 60 condominiums were made available for sale in Iqaluit and I'm wondering: as of today, how many units have been purchased, and how many units remain unsold? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the condo units here, of the 60 units, 13 are sold, 3 are pending, and 44 remain unsold, but we are working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: What are the barriers to selling those remaining 44 units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of issues that arose before this government was in place in terms of the units. I'm trying to remember the discussions we had in this room about some of the barriers that were there in terms of availability of units. Some units needed some major work, there were issues around insurance, there were issues around individuals living in units without having purchased them, we have tax liability, and not everybody wants to move into those condo units.

It has been a slow process. We have been working diligently with those that are interested. We have just put out a second call. I think we are just finalizing those. We have three that are on the hot stove that we are just trying to finalize, and once we do that and the tax issue is removed, to do that, we need to make them available for all residents, and not just government employees, and then we are hoping by doing that, it will loosen up and gain more interest from not just government employees, because that will remove the tax implications on it.

Those are some of the barriers and where we are headed with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just writing down little notes for my follow-ups here.

I'll start off with the mention of the issue of condominium insurance being a barrier. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has been involved with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation initiative to review this issue and I'm wondering if I can get an update on the status of that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the details on that, I'm not up to date on the status, but Mr. Devereaux, I believe can, through you, give those details, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go ahead, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Mr. Chairman, I can answer the question. Certainly, in the last 12 and 24 months, the number of fires occurring in Nunavut have had a significant impact to increased insurance costs across all buildings in the territory. For condos, it's not different. A lot of the condominiums we have in Nunavut are seeing really high insurance rates. So a particular group in Rankin was involved with Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation to sort of examine the insurance industry around condos, similar to other parts of Canada where

condos were experiencing significant rises.

I think we recognize, and in all honesty, we are seeing it in all forms of housing, not just condominiums, that the rising costs of insurance are making it even more challenging to find affordable housing.

The government hasn't gone down the road of examining whether or not they would ever get into the game of providing insurance, whether it's just for condos or the broader audience, because like I had mentioned, inflated insurance costs are affecting every homeowner in the territory. Certainly, we recognize it as being a challenge and part of it is trying to ensure that we build safe buildings and we minimize the number of occurrences that have an impact on driving insurance rates up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Devereaux, for that response.

I know I have heard from a number of constituents that they are unable to maintain insurance on their homes, and we know that many of the homeownership, repair and grant programs are contingent on homeowners having insurance. I would just like to hear from the minister about what the approach is for supporting those homeowners who may find themselves with a catastrophic issue like a flood or their furnace breaking down, and if they don't insurance, it is my understanding they cannot access some of the Government of Nunavut homeownership

programs. Is there any action being taken to support those homeowners so that they can maintain their homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good line of questioning, by the way, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are. At the end of the day, the Nunavut Housing Corporation wants to see more homeowners, and want to support more homeowners and homeownership across the territory. It's not getting any cheaper and it's just getting harder and harder and harder to maintain your own home.

We are hoping that the new suite of programs that we do have will be easier to access and more user-friendly. In reviewing those programs, we are trying to loosen up the situations where people can access funding, loosen up the emergency repair program, for example, and home repair programs. We've had long discussions about those very topics with some of the regular members, and I am hopeful that we will be more inclusive with the private homeowners and being able to give them more access to the funding and not so much work there to say "no you can't," but "let's see how we can make that happen." So we are headed in that direction that my colleague is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister, for that. I know that one person that I was in touch with was kind of in a catch 22 because they needed to upgrade their

fuel tank in order to renew their insurance that had lapsed, and they couldn't avail of that program because they didn't have insurance, so it would be great to hear that especially in incidences like that, where a homeowner might need to make some repairs or an upgrade in order to gain or regain insurance, to be a little bit more flexible, so I appreciate that.

I would just like to go back to the condominiums. Minister, you had mentioned that 44 of those condominiums in Iqaluit remain unsold. Is it possible to know whether or not anybody is living in those units or are they being rented out currently? Are they staff housing? What's the state of their occupancy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know exactly how many, but some of them are currently being used by staff. My colleague, from this spring to actually this session, has talked about the inconvenience or the damages that were caused by the water problems in the city and that put a lot of staff that were, some of them even in their own homes and/or staff housing, were displaced and luckily for us, some of those units were available to temporarily put staff in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to know that people were able to be relocated in those instances.

I would just like to hear more, minister, about you had mentioned that part of the barriers to sales for those condominium units is the tax liability. I can't remember where the discussion occurred, but I heard a little bit about what that tax liability means for the purchaser. Minister, if you could just elaborate on what that tax liability is and what measures are being taken to resolve that issue, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add to the condo units, we had a very big fire here, so some of those people were also able to go into those units, which is important. I think it's important that we step in where we can to help. The least we can do is help and it's nice to be able to do that.

In terms of the taxable benefit, I'll give you the *Reader's Digest* version. The way I understand it is; the Government of Nunavut employees were the only people who were able to apply for the condo units and so it was deemed, because of that, that it was a taxable benefit because it was a benefit for you to work for the government because you got those units at a very discounted price. So it became a tax issue.

The short end of it is, in order for it to not be a tax benefit, we have to open it up to everybody to be able to access that housing, whether they work in or outside government. That's happening now and we're hoping later this fall to hear that yes, it's no longer a taxable benefit and that will make more government employees and non-government employees access those houses because

then it's not a tax benefit on your tax line. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, you said that you're hoping to hear in the fall about whether or not it will still be a taxable benefit. Who are you waiting to hear that from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an item I have to take to cabinet, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really happy to hear that this program is being opened more to the public because I know that... I think somebody teased me in one of my first appearances, I said that not everybody wants to be a public servant. The people that do work for other organizations are as important as our public servants, so it's good to hear that the opportunity to become a homeowner is open to more people.

Having said that, I know that one of the benefits of this condominium program was aimed towards first-time homeowners and especially young people. I hear from people who are just beginning their careers and who are just beginning their families that the idea of homeownership for them, for that generation is really almost insurmountable. What I wonder is whether or not there will be specific aims at first-time homeowners as well as

more youthful homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are looking at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have a couple of questions; the first one is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's five-year capital plan indicates that \$7.36 million will be allocated on an annual basis for the local housing organization workshop, warehouse, and administrative offices replacement project. The capital substantiation sheet for this project indicates that the local housing organization facilities in Cambridge Bay was tendered in early 2023 and came out at \$18 million; much higher than the budget funding for the warehouse. Cancellation of the tender was approved by the board, although alternative funding models will be explored for Cambridge Bay and Arviat. What specific models are currently being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll use a couple of examples. For example, it's much more cost effective to purchase pre-engineered buildings. It's one way we can go and the other way is to purchase existing, Mr. Chairman. There seems to be in communities, more availability of large

warehouses or garages that are owned by the private sector that the private sector is looking to move out of or get rid of and it might be more cost effective for the housing corporation to provide those units.

In terms of our priorities we have here from Cambridge Bay and Arviat and Pond Inlet and Kugluktuk and so on, it might not necessarily happen in that batting order. If a building were, let's say, to be available to housing to buy in Repulse Bay, for example, and they're due for one at a very cheap price, then we might take a look at that, but we're keeping our ears to the ground and trying to find cheaper ways to accomplish a better warehouse and office system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the minister, for your reply. In your substantiation sheet on page 3, it says that design development will start in 2023 for Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven. Is that on hold now? 2023 is almost at the end. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that particular item, we're still trying to work on that. It might mean delaying that process and realigning some of that work because of these other possible ways of building or getting these warehouses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's quite impossible to get new infrastructure in Nunavut. There is a lot of funding for renovations, but not for new infrastructure, even in the federal funding.

My next question is on fire damage replacement. The 2021-22 capital projects substantiation sheet for fire damage replacement indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was "working towards developing a new policy to address the rebuild of fire damaged units and how new construction may be addressed to meet the needs of the communities." What specific changes to this current policy are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Please go ahead, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Historically, when the housing corporation was only building 50 public housing units each year and some communities maybe wouldn't see a new public housing unit in five years or eight years, it became more challenging when we had fires and we would lose units.

Historically, the corporation would come before the Assembly in capital estimates

to seek capital on fire damage replacement units. There were two components to it; one, as you see in this year's estimates, was a flat \$1 million to help out with fires that occur within our inventory but they were only minor in nature, so maybe a small kitchen fire that might only cost \$80,000, so that \$1 million is for those kinds of events that may occur in the next fiscal year.

Our hope and intention now with trying to target construction of 1,400 new public housing units that if we do have a fire in subsequent years, we would be able to tack the particular replacement on top of the other planned public housing units that we want to do each year in all the communities as part of that 1,400 target. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll just remind witnesses and committee members that there are interpreters doing simultaneous interpretation. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Devereaux. (interpretation ends) When will the new policy be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't have any plans to table it, Mr. Chairman. It's just a program that we're working on through the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. If I can make a suggestion, maybe just a letter to the

Regular Members' Caucus or to the committee when that policy comes out just so that when we're aware of some of the parameters, we can assist our constituents. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for explaining that further. (interpretation ends) In your substantiation sheet on fire damage replacement on page 3, can you clarify; Pond Inlet had a single-family dwelling and we lost that unit. It says that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will replace these outstanding fire-damaged units using the Fire Damage Fund. Is Pond Inlet getting a new unit replaced? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I might add: when? Minister Kusugak.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2024-25 we will be putting six units into Pond Inlet and it takes that into account, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question (interpretation ends) under the homeownership program. (interpretation) Under the housing corporation's homeownership programs and the down-payment assistance program, there are four different homeownership programs and there are six programs to improve the houses for homeowners. In looking at that, first of all, I'll ask you, for the Emergency Home Repair Program, do you have any categorizations if there is an emergency?

Do you have a program of set priorities for homeowners? Can you tell me how you define an "emergency" that occurs in a home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll use an example. If your furnace breaks down in the wintertime and your pipes freeze, then it's an emergency. That's just one example. In cases of emergencies, if the floor is creaking as you walk and the floor is uneven, then you need to level the house and you will know that it needs to be repaired, however, that is not an emergency. However, if there's an electrical issue and a burnout occurs because of the wiring, or if a frozen pipe bursts, that is an emergency and will need immediate repairs. If your furnace's fuel line spills, that is also considered an emergency case. If safety is an issue for the homeowner, it's an emergency. There are different kinds of emergency situations. Those are just a few examples, of course, that might occur in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I know that according to the applicant numbers, I wanted to hear more about it because we have heard through the media that there was a big wind storm in Pangnirtung. Looking at the six programs for homeowners, there is a female homeowner who can apply for the Emergency Repair Program and at

the same time, she is able to be given support through the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Preventative Maintenance Program.

We have heard through the media when she was being interviewed and asked questions while her home didn't have electricity and she had two disabled children who could not walk. I don't know how old they are, but we heard through the media about this incident. That's why I'm asking the question in regard to emergency cases. In an emergency case such as this one, they waited for two weeks before work was actually started on the house because they had to fill out the paperwork and forms, so there were many documents to go through before they could actually maintain the house. I know that she was very patient, given that she has disabled children living with her.

That is why I was asking the question regarding how you categorize or define an emergency home repair. I was talking about the incident we heard about in the media. Although this is lengthy, when emergency cases occur due to weather or climate change and it is damaging homes in the community, I was wondering if your department will look at starting to plan for that. I'm not sure of the actual process, but I just want to mention that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I apologize that they experienced that, but when the housing corporation was notified of the individual's situation, we provided support right away. She had tried to apply through the Qulliq Energy

Corporation, but the Qulliq Energy Corporation did not reply. Once we heard, we started dealing with that issue, and it was resolved, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation staff worked with the local housing association. They rectified all of the problems, so in the event of such emergency cases regarding homes, that is why we want to be notified right away so that we can provide support immediately. This issue has been rectified and the work has been done, and I appreciate and thank the people of the Pangnirtung Housing Association, their staff and the electrician for resolving the issue. The housing corporation ensure the work was all paid for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That you for explaining that further. We need to hear information such as this to know there is support available under the (interpretation ends) Homeownership Programs for repairs, renovation, and maintenance. I suggest that you go and visit the communities and explain to them what kinds of programs are available from the housing corporation to ensure that they notify the communities as to what kinds of programs are available to the communities and do a monthly report. That way, communities would know what kinds of programs are available for homeowners. It is very good and interesting to see.

One thing that I would like to get clarification on, though it is not toward funding, but can you explain further the issue you raised? I believe housing is separated into three categories;

(interpretation ends) housing organizations, housing associations, and housing authority. (interpretation) Can you explain to us what the difference is between each of them? Which is allocated higher funding? I just want to get clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 19 housing associations, and their boards of directors are nominated and elected by their community members. With the housing authorities, there are six that are appointed by the minister and they have slight differences in their roles and responsibilities, with the difference being that the associations are elected, and the authorities being appointed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. Again, I would like to ask for more information regarding the (interpretation ends) Renewable Energy Support Program. (interpretation) Do individuals apply when it comes to their cabins? It says (interpretation ends) that “programs will allow for individual climate change action to reduce fuel use within the territory, with cabin owners eligible up to \$5,000 for solar or wind systems, and homeowners being eligible for up to \$30,000 for a solar system.” (interpretation) Anyone from Nunavut is eligible to receive that subsidy under the program; it doesn’t matter if you are Inuk or not, as long as you are from Nunavut and you have a cabin. Is that

the case that anyone is able to apply for that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for all residents of Nunavut. As long as you live in Nunavut, no matter what race, you are eligible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that reply. An Inuk can apply for those rebates or programs as long as they fill out their applications through the local housing association. Those are very good programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, it is a very good program. Applicants can get assistance through the Department of Environment to help fill out those applications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. This will be my last question. Under the 2021-22 information, on November 7, 2022, it indicates there are eligibility criteria if you want to buy or build a home. It says (interpretation ends) since 2014, no changes had taken place. (interpretation) To date (interpretation ends) what has been made for effort? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With those programs and subsidies regarding homeownership by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we have reviewed them all and we do have some regular members sitting on the review committee.

I believe that we will have the information be made available prior to Christmas. Once we get all of that information together, we will be able to provide it to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It's not subject to debate. All those in favour. Please, again, please keep your hands up. Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

The witnesses can leave the table. I won't make you stay here until tomorrow.

>> *Laughter*

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 31 and would like to

report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Qavvik.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. 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 Legislation meets at 9 a.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 25:

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

15. Notices of Motions for First

Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of

the Whole of Bills and Other

Matters

- Bill 31
- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 35
- Bill 36
- Tabled Document 1 – 6(2)
- Tabled Document 73 – 6(2)
- Tabled Document 120 – 6(2)
- Tabled Document 163 – 6(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the

Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 19:49*

