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Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit East)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna if he could start us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, everybody and welcome back. Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 068 – 3(3):
Update on the Nunavut Business
Credit Corporation**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to provide the Members of the Legislative Assembly with an update on the Nunavut Business

Credit Corporation's continued improvement.

Earlier this year, I advised members that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation had achieved a significant milestone. In March, the Auditor General of Canada issued an audit opinion on the corporation's 2009-2010 financial statements, reversing years of denied opinions. This is an outstanding accomplishment.

Over the years, attempts to address the deficiencies and concerns raised by the Auditor General have fallen short. Finally, in April 2010, the NBCC was placed under the day-to-day administrative control of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation through a memorandum of agreement. This complemented a directive issued in 2008 by the Minister of Finance which subjected the corporation to close scrutiny by the Department of Finance.

Through 2010-11, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation made great strides in addressing the Auditor General's concerns. Under the direction of a newly hired CEO and a reconstituted board of directors, and with the ongoing support of the departments of Finance and Economic Development and Transportation, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation achieved what had been unattainable previously. In noting this possible outcome, I must acknowledge the Public Agencies Council and its strong oversight in ensuring the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's turnaround.

NBCC continues to make considerable progress and aims to meet its statutory

reporting deadline for the 2011-12 fiscal year. This remains the one outstanding matter which is necessary to bring the corporation into full compliance.

Consistent with this objective, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation succeeded in producing its unaudited 2010-11 financial statements in just two months after the fiscal year-end, an improvement of several months.

It is important to note that NBCC has continued to issue well-supported loans and renewals of new and existing clients throughout this time in keeping with its mandate to foster opportunities for Nunavummiut. With the support and direction of its board, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation intends to strategically expand its loan portfolio in 2011-12 and beyond.

With these achievements in hand, it is my great pleasure today to advise members of yet another significant milestone for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Very recently, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance, with the full concurrence of our cabinet colleagues, formally revoked the ministerial directive. This highlights the renewed confidence in the corporation, its board, and its management to appropriately and responsibly manage its affairs and fulfill its mandate for the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation can now advance its operations and set its strategic direction unencumbered by issues of the past. It is a tremendous accomplishment for which we can all take great pride and I commend all those who played a role in the Nunavut Business Credit

Corporation's turnaround. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Minister's Statement 069 – 3(3):
Crash of First Air Flight 6560 –
Resolute Bay**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Quttiktuq region and the rest of Nunavut continue to feel deep sadness over the crash of First Air Flight 6560 in Resolute Bay this past August.

On behalf of all Nunavummiut, a heartfelt thank you goes out to those who participated in the emergency response and who provided support to the friends and families of those who were on that flight. Our wish for those who were touched personally by the tragedy is that you are able to work through the trauma of August 20 and ultimately move forward.

I also would like to acknowledge the bravery of those who survived this accident. You have shown incredible strength and know that you will always have the support you need in the times ahead.

(interpretation ends) It was indeed a fortunate coincidence that the Canadian Rangers and the Canadian Forces were in the midst of a training exercise near Resolute Bay on August 20 and were

able to come to the assistance of the survivors within minutes.

Under normal circumstances, the response to any large-scale emergency in Nunavut would come from the southern provinces. Help would not have arrived for many precious hours. Mr. Speaker, for this reason, I continue to stress to our federal government the importance of having search and rescue capabilities based in the northern territories.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my utmost thanks to the local volunteer firefighters, RCMP, health centre staff, Canadian military, the Rangers, First Air personnel, other local volunteers, and dedicated staff who responded to this tragic event with overwhelming commitment.

Finally, I would like to recognize the community of Resolute Bay who pulled together to support one another during and following the events of August 20. You have reminded all of us that our communities are precious and we can overcome our most critical times of need by working together. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 070 – 3(3):
Power Disruption in Nunavut**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank Nunavummiut for their patience throughout the periods

of power outages we have been experiencing in various communities throughout Nunavut.

As we work to improve the reliability and efficiency of electrical infrastructure across our territory, there will continue to be incidents of outages in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, wherever possible, maintenance is scheduled during the summer months to ensure that if an outage is scheduled in the community, we are dealing with a diminished electrical supply during the brighter, warmer summer months and not in the cold, dark winter months.

Power outages are usually scheduled during evenings and weekends to avoid disrupting schools, airports, health centres, and the business community. Examples of this include the numerous outages in Iqaluit for the 25 kilovolt distribution system upgrade and the outage that was scheduled to occur in Rankin Inlet in September.

Mr. Speaker, while we understand that these disruptions have been an inconvenience to many Nunavummiut, they are necessary to allow for safe and efficient maintenance and upgrades. We will continue to do our best to inform customers and the public well in advance of any scheduled outages.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation continues to strive to maintain its infrastructure and prevent unplanned outages. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, sometimes, in spite of our best efforts, the system fails, which can result in power losses for a community. What I will say is that in every instance, power

has been restored as fast and safely as possible.

Mr. Speaker, with the population growth Nunavut has experienced since the majority of our infrastructure was built it is a continuing challenge to meet our power generation needs. As we go forward, our goal is to ensure a reliable, safe, and consistent supply of electricity.

I would like to thank all Nunavummiut for their patience and understanding during these periods of power disruption, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Madam Ell.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 110 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention Strategy for Nunavut

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the topic of mental health, one of the most critical issues facing Nunavummiut today.

Mr. Speaker, during the short time that I was campaigning to be a Member of this Assembly, the community of Iqaluit was shattered by a series of suicides, one after another. It was very difficult to talk to people about the promise of the future when so many were in shock from the recent losses they had suffered.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Action Plan was tabled in this House on September

28, 2011. I have had an opportunity to read through the plan and it concerns me. Mr. Speaker, it worries me that so much of this plan focuses on such activities as environmental scans, gap analysis, research papers, and developing protocols and memorandums of understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I expected to see more action. The most substantive action in this plan is the staffing of two full-time positions. I was also pleased to note that there will be more funding dedicated to such important initiatives as the crisis line and the Embrace Life Council.

(interpretation) However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that in order to adequately address the mental health issues facing our people we need to make more real investments, not vague promises. We need greater commitment and we need it now, not after undertaking more studies, research papers, or policy development.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we need real action to achieve real change. I encourage this government to work with its partners, NTI, the RCMP, and the Embrace Life Council, to convert the words in the suicide prevention action plan into actions at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Ell. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Member's Statement 111 – 3(3): Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of

emergency preparedness. As I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, the quick actions of first responders in Resolute Bay following the crash of First Air Flight 6560 likely saved lives.

I am very proud of the Resolute Bay volunteer firefighters and the RCMP who faced a terrible and unexpected situation with courage and professionalism. I am also very proud of our health centre staff as well as personnel at the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, being prepared saved lives.

As a number of my colleagues have been saying, it is critical that all relevant levels of government work closely together to ensure that every single one of our communities has an approved emergency plan in place and that they have the necessary resources and equipment to ensure that the plan can be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, in looking ahead, an issue that has been brought to my attention concerns the lack of a backup generator in Resolute Bay. It is my understanding that in the event of a total power failure in the community that occurs in the winter months, residents are to converge on a central location. I urge the government to address this situation.

Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled the government's most recent annual report on emergency management in the territory. This is an important document and I thank the government for producing it. I will have more questions for the minister on this issue during our fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 112 – 3(3):
Diamond Drilling Course**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say "good afternoon" to all of my constituents in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 12 students from Arviat started the classroom portion of the community's new Arviat Diamond Drillers Training Program. Hands-on training will also be offered, which will see the trainees help operate a functioning diamond drill. The 10-week training program will run until the beginning of December.

To help ensure successful course delivery, a local Inuit assistant instructor has been hired. Luderic Onerk of Arviat is an experienced diamond driller and will help prepare the trainees for the hard work ahead. He will also ensure the course content is explained in Inuktitut, increasing the comprehension of key concepts.

Mr. Speaker, this exciting new program funded in part by the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Program would not be possible without the concerted effort of a number of partner organizations, including the Government of Nunavut Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Agnico-Eagle Mines, Orbit Garnet Drilling Services, Boart Longyear Canada, the Kivalliq Mine Training Society, Nunavut Arctic College, Northern College, the Kivalliq Inuit

Association, and the Contaminants Remediation Training Organization of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, a second course is scheduled for January 2012 and will be open to residents other than Kivalliq communities. With current funding commitments, the program is funded for the first two 10-week courses. It is anticipated that the course will continue to be offered at least twice a year.

Course graduates will have immediate access to well-paying jobs as service diamond drill helpers. With experience, they can advance to work as a diamond driller and will be qualified to work anywhere in Canada or in the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating our first class of future diamond drillers. They are Keith Angalik, Andy Anowtalik, Matthew Issumatarjuak, Samuel Ivu, Lucien Kabvitok, Kelly Kigusiutnak, Sandy Kritaqlilik, Gary Jr. Kuksuk, Charlie Jr. Malla, Johnny Palvialuk, and David Tassiuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Member's Statement 113 – 3(3): Pond Inlet Participants in Soccer Tournament

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say "good afternoon" to Pond Inlet residents and our fellow Nunavummiut. I rise today to congratulate several fellow residents of Pond Inlet.

This weekend, there was a soccer tournament for youth here in Iqaluit, with several residents of Pond Inlet under the age of 15 participating. The team came in second place in this tournament and I am extremely proud of their accomplishment. I urge my colleagues to share in this because our community generally does not compete in soccer trials. However, they were able to participate and they came in second place, so the people of Pond Inlet are quite proud of their success.

I also want to share with you the players' names. They are:

Michael Inuarak,
Roland Aapak,
Terrance Koonark,
Darren Enook,
Simeonie Aksarjuk,
Dominique Kublu,
T.J. Atadjuat, and
Kunuk Qajaakuttuk.

Further, I would be remiss without thanking the long-time coach for the soccer team, who provides them with training and looks after his team players in trying to improve them. The coach is Grigor Hope.

We are very proud of their accomplishments and I am sure all Nunavummiut share in this congratulations on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 114 – 3(3):
Addressing Social Issues in
Nunavut**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings and say “good day” to the people of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's nice not to be the rookie member in the Assembly anymore. I have now had many opportunities to see how things are done at this level and I would like to make some observations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment at our government's lack of progress in addressing social issues where they are the most important: in our families, in our homes, and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, this government's *Tamapta* Action Plan laid out a number of critical objectives. Many of these have been addressed with the establishment of wide safety nets, but we are still a long way from making a real difference in people's day-to-day lives.

For example, *Tamapta* promises a Nunavut-based substance abuse rehabilitation facility, which has not appeared on any capital plan that I have seen. Many individuals are unwilling to leave their home communities to go to facilities outside of the territory and their month-long absence often causes more stress for the family they left behind. However, the government seems unwilling to consider community-based programs, such as mobile treatment programs.

Mr. Speaker, community-based groups, such as the Coral Harbour Men's Group, are fine examples of what can be accomplished at the local level. I understand that members of this group have travelled to other communities in the Kivalliq and in the Baffin. It would be very good if they could also visit Kitikmeot communities to describe their role and activities.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, another of our government's initiatives, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, is not addressing the issue that it was originally designed for.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) From what I have seen, the legislation is often being used to resolve family problems between parents, their children, and their siblings but not between spouses who are involved in a domestic dispute.

Mr. Speaker, there are not enough frontline programs on the ground in our communities to provide protection and support for women, children, and elders. I recognize that different departments, such as CLEY, Health and Social Services, and Justice, are all busy developing policies and procedures. Meanwhile, individuals are suffering.

We need more investment at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, on a final note, I am pleased that one of the primary goals of the *Tamapta* Action Plan to create a poverty reduction strategy has been reached. At the same time, more and more schools are offering breakfast programs and meal programs where educators are feeding our children. More support and programs must be provided to families to enable them to feed themselves and their children.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this government to look closely at what is needed on the ground level instead of focusing resources and energy at the top end. It is taking too long to trickle down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 115 – 3(3):
Celebrating the Co-operative
Movement**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a very good afternoon to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

I am very happy. Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to announce that the week of October 16 to 22 is Co-operative Week. I believe it is celebrated not just in Nunavut but everywhere they have co-operatives in our country. This is an annual celebration that is celebrated up here.

In my constituency community of Igloolik, the community Co-op celebrated its 48th anniversary this year. Further, Mr. Speaker, I can state that co-operatives that were established in the past have really benefited the communities, especially in fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship and in owning their own local co-operatives. This allows local residents to participate in economic development initiatives and other self-sufficiency initiatives.

There are many people, Mr. Speaker, who initiated the Co-operative movement who are no longer with us, but their legacy lives on as the Co-ops they created are operating successful businesses. Due to this reason, Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues in this House to support Co-op Week and to celebrate it and recall the people who started these co-operatives, even though they are no longer with us.

We have to remember our visionary leaders from those days and to ensure that Inuit are able to move towards self-sufficiency with businesses that are operated locally. The Co-ops have been very beneficial to the people of Nunavut and I would like to acknowledge that during Co-op Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Member's Statement 116 – 3(3):
Pangnirtung Resident Named One
of Nunavut's Top Employees**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding work of one of my constituents, Amie Nashalik. Mr. Speaker, Amie was voted one of the top employees of the year in the September issue of the *Up Here Business* magazine.

Mr. Speaker, Amie has been working as a general labourer for the Peregrine Diamond Chidliak exploration camp for the last year and a half.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, with the limited employment opportunities in my constituency, I congratulate Amie for taking advantage of the Peregrine Mines Diamond Chidliak exploration project.

Mr. Speaker, I am also encouraged to see that the exploration camp is continuing to find diamond-bearing kimberlites, which could increase employment opportunities for my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 117 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Nanulik
Graduates**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the recent high school graduates in the communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet last month.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, achieving a High School Diploma is a stepping stone to a productive future. Our graduates have the potential to become the leaders of the future. They have demonstrated that they can put in the hard work and dedication that leads to success.

Mr. Speaker, on September 2, 2011, graduation ceremonies were held in both Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet.

Our Coral Harbour graduates are:

Kayla Maclean;
Norman Nakoolak Jr.;
Jalen Ell;
Alex Duffy;
Saul Netser;
Davidee Adams; and
Kelvin Kalai.

Our Chesterfield Inlet graduates are:

Brandon Ipkarnerk; and
Lavinia Tanuyak.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these young graduates. They are examples and role models for the youth in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulation the Nanulik high school graduates on their achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I'm sure we all wish those young people the best in their future endeavours and hope they continue to keep up the good work. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 118 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Quppaapik
Ningeocheak**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people listening to and watching the proceedings, especially the residents of Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to this issue. Many residents tend to be passive, expectantly waiting for developments to come their way. We may know individuals who require assistance, but since we know that it is someone else's responsibility, we tend to slough off our duty. We end up saying that some other body or person has that responsibility, not us, so we just become spectators. However, I am very pleased that not all Nunavummiut have that mentality.

In Rankin Inlet, I want to acknowledge Quppaapik Ningeocheak. He rarely sits around as he is always busy. This past week, he took it upon himself to coordinate a suicide prevention workshop, where he gathered representatives of elders, middle-aged folks, as well as youth. They held a meeting at the hamlet community hall, where they met all week, ate meals, prayed, and discussed suicide prevention, but most importantly, they talked about healthy lifestyles to combat suicide. I am quite proud of him and wish to congratulate him for accomplishing what must have been a complex undertaking.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Quppaapik, his wife and children for their hard work in Rankin Inlet, including his assistants and the

participants in the workshop. Thank you very much. If there were more individuals following his example, it is rather obvious that we would have fewer concerns in Nunavut.

Quppaapik, I thank you and wish you the best of luck, and I hope that you have continued success with your work in the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 119 – 3(3):
Celebrating the 40th Anniversary
of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to rise today to make a brief statement and it should be one that members should take note of, as well as by the listening public in Nunavut, Nunavik, and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, in this current year, an important milestone and anniversary will take place that marks the beginning of the Inuit movement towards political representation when they created a national Inuit organization in 1971. Today is the 40th anniversary of the Inuit movement towards self-reliance and self-determination. However, what I can state is that the Inuit fight for self-determination did not start 40 years ago. Prior to that era, Inuit started discussing their concerns about how we could be set up as a people.

This date commemorates only the establishment of the national Inuit organization 40 years ago and it has

been recognized as a national organization ever since that time. However, with respect to this issue, Mr. Speaker, many people can recall and remember that day, and many are still with us who were involved in Nunavut, Nunavik, and Labrador.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, I want to especially note these individuals who made great contributions to the cause but are unfortunately no longer with us today. I want to express my sincere gratitude to these Inuit, although I will not mention all those who were involved. They are:

Mary Cousins from Iqaluit;
Noah Qumak from Salluit;
Edward Berthe from Churchill,
originally from Kuujjuaq;
Wallace Goose from Holman Island;
Peter Kamingoak from Kugluktuk,
Joanasie Salamonie from Cape Dorset,
and;
Elijah Menarik from Northern Quebec.

These individuals were very dedicated using all of their capacity to establish the organization, where we held discussions amongst ourselves, although we were not able to use telephones at the time. I want my colleagues to join me in celebrating their accomplishments so that people can become more proud of the initiative that led to Inuit being able to become self-determining and to look after their homelands. This government is a result of their legacy for self-determination of which you are now a part. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Member's Statements. Item 4. Returns

to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to welcome several people who have now moved to my constituency. First of all, I would like to welcome Gabrielle Pelky, the little girl here who looks sleepy, as well as her mother, Brenda Eckalook, and her younger sister. You probably recognize Gabrielle as you may recall she was in the news. On August 20, this courageous girl was a survivor of the First Air plane that crashed in Resolute Bay. This event has touched many Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Even though Gabrielle is still in a cast, Gabrielle is doing a great job learning to walk, and she and her family are now living here in Iqaluit in my riding, and she is back in school.

Mr. Speaker, I know the family has suffered a great sorrow as well. Gabrielle lost her little sister Cheyenne in the tragic crash. Our sincere condolences to the family.

Gabriel, your bravery, your smile, and your strength are examples of resilience to all Nunavummiut. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 151 – 3(3): Contract for Kitikmeot Air Ambulance Services

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In my Member's Statement yesterday, I expressed concern about the government's contract for air ambulance service in the Kitikmeot. As of today, has the government formally entered into and signed a new contract for the provision of the air ambulance service in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question. I want to state to you and to our fellow Nunavutmiut and Kitikmeot residents, along with the listening public, that the air ambulance services are operating currently. The contract will continue with Adlair Aviation for another month while the RFP appeal process is being reviewed. Once the appeal has been reviewed and processed, I would be able to make a statement as to exactly how the contracting process turned out.

Currently the contract will continue to the end of the month due to the appeal process. This contract will continue with the long-time contractor, Adlair Aviation, who will provide this service to the end of October. That is as far as I

can speak to the matter, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, my main concern is that we provide the highest possible quality of air ambulance services in the Kitikmeot and that standards of health and safety are maintained or increased. However, many residents in the Kitikmeot are concerned that the government made its decision mainly on the basis of price and other economic factors. Can the minister clearly explain how the government is ensuring that the standards of care and services will be maintained or improved? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All contracts that are let have their own criteria and the criteria are followed when reviewing the contracts. The overall price of the contract is not the only factor we review and this is the same case with all contracts we let here in Nunavut.

We only review qualified bidders for the contract and we only consider these bidders when reviewing the contract. This process will not be sidestepped and this will not change since our primary focus is on safety for these medevac flights as they are emergency medical services, and further, people should be proud of the work undertaken.

However, with respect to each contract, I cannot state who will be the winning company for the contract until the appeal process has been completed. I will then be able to speak to how the contract process was worked out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether the final decision to make the contract award for air ambulance services in the Kitikmeot is made by the cabinet or by officials in his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, once the appeal process for the contract has played out, I will be able to report on the contract. At this time, I cannot provide any further details prior to this appeal process being completed. Only then will we be able to provide actual details on the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, we have read that hundreds of residents in the Kitikmeot have been signing petitions concerning the award of the government's contract for air ambulance services. As I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, I am concerned about how the government's

contracting process is understood by the public. What message does the government have for the hundreds of Kitikmeot residents who are not happy with this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated just recently, once the appeal process has been completed with a final decision on the contract, I will be able to provide more details on the issues the member wants us to announce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 152 – 3(3): Status of Uranium Mining Policy

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to revisit the issue of uranium mining in Nunavut. So my questions are directed to Madam Premier, Eva Aariak, whose department recently organized public consultation sessions in Baker Lake and other communities in Nunavut. With this being such an important issue, I would like to ask the Premier: can the Premier update us today on the status of the government's policy on uranium mining in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier, Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. This policy has been under development for quite a number of years in Nunavut, ever since we conducted a consultation tour with communities that may be affected. At this time, we are still using these principles. The six principles which we are using speak to mining issues here in Nunavut, particularly with relation to uranium mining.

To date, we have been able to tour these communities which we identified previously as those we wanted to meet with and they are the communities of Baker Lake, Iqaluit, and Cambridge Bay. At this time, we still want to have further discussions with the Inuit organization bodies, such as the Nunavut Tunngavik board, as they also want to know what the position of the Nunavut government is on this issue.

We will have to meet with Nunavut Tunngavik first, but to date, although it is still ongoing, we are making progress on the report detailing what we heard from the public. They have made some progress on the report and we have to meet with Nunavut Tunngavik shortly thereafter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response as well, and I am sure most of Nunavut and NTI will be keenly looking for an outcome on this.

Mr. Speaker, it is not much of a question but maybe if I could just leave this with

a comment that we all know Nunavummiut do require the economic development opportunities that are available from our natural resources. But as all Nunavummiut are aware too, the primary concern is for safety of environment and animal concerns. So there are a lot of issues raised in regard to advancement of mining, but the primary core is just to remind people that they have a say in the process as well.

I appreciate the response from the Premier and look forward to future communications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 153 – 3(3): Nunavut and Nunavik Polar Bear Management

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, last month, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated issued a news release announcing a temporary and voluntary total quota of 60 polar bears per year for Nunavut and Nunavik hunters in the southern Hudson Bay area.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement was made in Inukjuak, Nunavik, and included participants from NTI, Makivik Corporation, Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization, Inuit and Cree hunters, wildlife management boards, and territorial, provincial, and federal government representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the news release also indicated that this agreement was subject to approval by Nunavik hunters from the affected communities and that the development of a management plan is a long-term objective of the parties.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on the status of this agreement from the government's perspective? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The member's information and accuracy is very good. There have been two meetings held now, one in June and one in September, in regard to southern Hudson Bay. As everybody knows, in the springtime, it was a major concern with a great over-harvest in Quebec in regard to the southern Hudson Bay population.

A little bit of background on that is that of the population, on an annual basis, there were 45 bears harvested a year and last year, there were 110 bears harvested, so there was great concern. Nunavut has been one of the leaders and part of the management system that's being discussed. The players that the member indicates are Environment Canada, Northern Quebec, Makivik, all of the Inuit associations, and the HTOs.

This year, it has been agreed to that the existing harvest level for one year will be 60 bears, of which 25 will go to Nunavut, specifically to Sanikiluaq, and sustain the existing harvest that they have. That's what important for Nunavut

and important for Sanikiluaq, that we support the community and sustain the existing harvest they have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his update. Mr. Speaker, the news release also indicated that participants had also agreed to "continue open communications, and to collaborate on harvest information and scientific research" on the management of the polar bear population. Can the minister indicate what the current total polar bear population is in the southern Hudson Bay area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The total current population of bears is estimated at 950 bears for the entire population. Just to add to that too, survey work is being conducted as we speak. I believe it might be completed as of now from the Ontario perspective and it will continue next year on the Quebec portion of the population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your second supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in the importance of local knowledge on this issue. The people of Sanikiluaq know and understand the importance of a sustainable harvest of

the polar bear population. Can the minister explain what his department is doing to ensure that this population will be available for future generations?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that Inuit knowledge is being used in all of our wildlife research that we do on all species of wildlife in Nunavut.

To ensure the sustainable population of the southern Hudson Bay, I think we need to make wise choices and wise decisions. With the current harvest set at 60 for this one year, this information all needs to be analyzed after existing surveys are done and that we ensure that there is a sustainable population to harvest from. What's important to Nunavut is that we support and maintain Sanikiluaq's harvest of 25 bears and that's our focus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 154 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention in Nunavut

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan was tabled in September. I would like to thank the Premier and the Minister of Health for pushing to have this document released.

Could the minister update the House on what is being done with the implementation of the action plan?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very important question. I know the partners are working hard to further develop the program aspects of the action plan. I am satisfied that the Embrace Life Council is very involved in that. I can only indicate right now that this issue is very sensitive to many Nunavutmiut and also to me as the minister.

I intend to have a further statement developed and stated here in the House due to the fact that we must be sensitive to what's going on throughout Nunavut and we need partners, not only with the existing partners that I mentioned; the partnership we have with Health and Social Services, which includes NTI, the Embrace Life Council, and our team members of the RCMP.

So I will make a further statement indicating exactly what the status is, but at this moment, I will defer my statement once I have consulted further with my officials. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any specific details of the implementation action plan or are there any milestones that the minister could elaborate on today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member should appreciate the fact that this is a very complex situation. I know our partners are working hard in developing the program aspects. Exactly the time schedules and everything else, I would like to include those in my statement when I do make it.

I want to assure the member that our partners are working hard and the fact that to me, as the minister, it's a sombre aspect to deal with this thing and we need to take it continually cautiously. We need to reach out to the families as well as those who are difficult to reach, so we want to hear from them.

From the department's side, I can indicate to the member that I do also wish to indicate that it is important to consult further with all our partners with the other groups, for instance, the faith-based communities. I want to reach out to the church members. There could be a meeting further along before the end of the year. That's one aspect.

As we speak, there are some events going on in my community that are quietly meeting with the church leaders to seek help from them as well and reaching out to families because government alone is not able to reach out to those who need help, those who may be in depressing situations.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say on this before the end of the session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. In February, all regular members will start to review the operations and maintenance estimates for the Government of Nunavut for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Will the details of the action plan be reflected as priorities in the upcoming business plan of the departments affected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can say as a government that we have, I think, passed an important milestone due to the fact that we have completed the strategy as well as issued the action plan. Now that that is in place, the policy aspect of it, no doubt about it, I am satisfied that that will be one of the most important priorities of the government, to reach out to the communities throughout, and that we will definitely be including a program as well as the detailed cost presented during the main estimates session in the wintertime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut, in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the RCMP, and the Embrace Life Council, has developed the new Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan. If the implementation of the action plan is

based around four partners actively participating, what has your department put in place to evaluate and measure the success of its implementation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my first response to the question, I will have more to say on that. I think the member can wait a few more days before I lay out of some of the details of our plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 155 – 3(3): Status of Aircraft Equipment Shelter for Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is aware, I have been asking a number of questions about the new airport equipment shelter for Chesterfield Inlet. This project has experienced a number of delays over the past couple of years. I am sure that the minister is as eager as I am to see the project completed so that he will not have to listen to me asking questions or attempt to answer any more questions from me on this matter. For the benefit of the public record and my constituents who are listening today, can the minister provide me with an update on the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Nanulik for that question. Mr. Speaker, the shell of the Chesterfield Inlet equipment shelter has been complete, including the overhead doors, and there have been some issues with budgeting and so forth. At this time, we plan on re-tendering some of the extra work that is required, which involves the mechanical, electrical, and the granular floor, and we expect to do that next month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response from the minister. I was actually going to attempt to minimize my questions to one, but I would like to add one more. Should the community expect to have that airport shelter completed by next fiscal year, meaning 2012? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. As the minister responsible for Nunavut airports, yes, we wanted these equipment shelters put in place because we know for a fact that when we purchase new equipment to maintain the airports and airstrips, they

have to be protected from the elements, especially from the extreme cold. With the protection of the equipment, it prolongs the life and the use, and we get better value for our money for the airport equipment that we do purchase for Nunavut communities.

Yes, with the re-tendering, I'm sure once that's done later next month, we would be in a good position to complete the project by next fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 156 – 3(3): ASIST Workshop for Nunavut School Staff

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

On October 21, 2010, the coalition of DEAs passed a motion that urged the Department of Education as a matter of the highest priority to make suicide alertness and intervention training available to all staff in Nunavut schools who wish to take it as soon as possible and on an ongoing basis. My question is: how has your department responded to this motion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The training programs related to suicide prevention and intervention, which are to be provided in the schools, are very important to this government. Another

important factor is to have our students and all staff in the school aware of the facts surrounding this issue.

In September 2009, in cooperation with the Nunavut Teachers Association, they took a training program on applied suicide intervention skills training. We had approximately 120 teachers involved in this training program. We also provided more training to student counsellors held in February 2010. Additionally, this program was offered in February 2010 with about 20 individuals participating during the teachers' conference here in Iqaluit. In May 2010, they held another workshop in Pond Inlet's Nasivvik High School. In February 2011, this program was offered as a course in Cambridge Bay during the Kitikmeot Regional Teachers' Conference. To date, we've had 160 teachers take this intervention training and they are all within our schools.

Also, upcoming in November 2011, in collaboration with the Nunavut Teachers Association and the Department of Health and Social Services, we will offer a training program for approximately 60 participants in November 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of initiating an ASIST workshop in a local school, what's the process for the staff to be able to be trained? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the gist of the member's question, I believe he asked what the teachers need to do to participate in an ASIST workshop. What do teachers have to do if they want the training or how can they apply? If teachers wish to attend this course, they can submit an application to their principal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary question, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that in February of 2012, professional development activities for all Nunavut teachers will occur here in Iqaluit. Is the ASIST training going to be provided to Nunavut teachers who wish to take it at this event? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said earlier, in November 2011, in partnership with the Nunavut Teachers Association and the Department of Health and Social Services, we will offer the ASIST program to approximately 60 students. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 157 – 3(3): Construction of the New Conservation Office in Coral Harbour

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services, whose department plays a major role in the government tendering process and project management.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the construction of the new conservation office in Coral Harbour will not occur until next summer. Can the minister explain what specific reasons caused this delay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there were some issues with the site location and availability of the land was one of the issues regarding the construction of the renewable resource office, from my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I was led to understand from the Coral Harbour Hamlet Council, the issue was already dealt with in August of this year. Also, I want to mention that the lot that was to be used to locate this new facility, the existing building is actually sitting on that lot, so it was a matter of changing the title for the lot from residential to commercial. I felt that the onus of delays shouldn't be focused on the community's effort to not provide any information, perhaps.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I have a concern which pertains to the lack of communication between the department and the municipality concerning such projects. I was informed of the delay because I asked for the status of this project during our standing committee meetings. However, the municipality was not informed on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an isolated incident. There is a lack of communication between the department and other municipalities throughout our territory on infrastructure projects. What steps will the minister take to address this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I wish it was that simple. I'll have to take another look at all of the details pertaining to what he said the hamlet said. I don't want to work under he said, she said assumptions. I know we get into issues regarding communications. It is something that we work at to do our best to communicate with municipalities, other departments, and other people we have to work with. We will continue to strive to have as good a communication as we can.

I will look into the exact details and we will have to find out if those are the only issues that were at hand. When you deal with policies, by-laws, and issues with land, title of land, and turnover of land, it becomes a little more complicated than being told, "Yes, go ahead and just build there." I'll look into that.

As for improving communications with municipalities, we continue to strive to communicate with the municipalities as best we could. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your second supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is just the point that I'm trying to make. When there's lack of communication, I shouldn't have to be an MLA asking a question only to find out that there has been a delay. So in order to prevent that kind of problem from arising in the future, I sincerely ask the minister to address this issue so that anything of that nature will not have to be dealt with again.

I felt that the Hamlet Council of Coral Harbour did the very logical thing, which was to identify the issue and change the title of that lot, but then only to end up being used as part of the rationale for the delay. I felt that the onus should have been on Community and Government Services to provide adequate information, especially when there was a delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I appreciate that and I would have to check the timelines in terms of when the municipality said, "You could go ahead and use the land or you could construct there." If we were told, "You have to take a look and analyze," when did this information get passed by the municipality? When did they say you could go ahead and build

it? We will have to take a closer look as to all of those issues pertaining to why construction was delayed. I'll check into the responsibility of our department and work with my colleague with renewable resources and we will see if we can't deal with the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to stress that in this case, the Department of Environment was given adequate funding to provide a capital item to the community of Coral Harbour.

Do I understand correctly that the Department of CGS is responsible for making sure that the capital item identified is tendered out and so forth and managed so that it comes into play at the time it was supposed to, which was this fall? I understand, as I stated earlier, that it's not coming until this coming summer. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. When the departments are putting out tender calls, RFPs, and so forth, our department will work with the client department in terms of providing terms of reference and a description of goods and services required. We work with them, we work through the tendering process, and at the end of the day, we work with them to ensure that what they

are requesting is worked on, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 158 – 3(3): Emergency Preparedness at Nunavut Health Centres

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the communications failure of the Anik 2 satellite was a real eye-opener for many of us. For the professionals and service providers in our communities, it raised an awareness of new challenges to doing their jobs as more and more aspects of delivering services rely on digital communication.

I am confident that since the communications blackout of October 2, the Department of Health and Social Services must be one of the first to evaluate how service delivery was impacted by the loss of communication ability. Can the minister clearly describe what lessons were learned as a result of this unexpected occurrence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether I can add any further to what my colleague, the Minister of CGS, indicated as minister responsible emergency preparedness and so on. I think he made it quite clear that we were fortunate that there were no

major disasters or whatnot or emergencies that occurred in terms of other aspects aside from the communication failure.

Certainly we have learned something and the government is preparing communication equipment systems. Once these discussions are completed, I'm sure my colleague will announce to the House exactly what kind of preparedness and equipment are being planned. I know my officials are working hard to try and work with CGS to develop equipment that would be in every health centre.

We certainly did learn a lot and we are lucky and fortunate that no major disaster occurred, particularly with respect to a health situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was broadcast over the radio for frontline workers to contact headquarters via satellite phone. I know that in your response, you had mentioned about Minister Kusugak's response as well. He had mentioned that satellite phones would be going to the health centres. I was wondering if he knew exactly when. As all three of my communities did not have satellite phones and relied on search and rescue response teams and also the RCMP for assistance, do you have a date of when those satellite phones will be going to the communities? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't have a date. I would say that my colleague would likely respond to that. I would say the request for equipment of this nature will likely normally go through a tendering process as well. So I'm not in a position at all to comment on that, other than the fact that our officials jointly, all levels of government, are working hard to ensure that we are equipped and ready to deal with this kind of situation if it does happen again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary question, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following recent events, many communities have renewed their efforts to have emergency preparedness plans in place. Can the minister confirm that all Nunavut health centres have their own emergency preparedness plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be prepared to respond more fully before the session is over on that issue because I think that during the pandemic situation like we had with H1N1 stuff, we were pretty well a lot more advanced, I think, in preparing pandemic preparedness plans for every community. I'll be prepared to provide that information once I have consulted with my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your final supplementary question, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always important to use our past experiences to review our ability to deal with unexpected events and to plan forward based on lessons learned.

The recent communications blackout lasted only 18 hours, but it could have lasted longer. Given that much of our medical information will soon be stored electronically and information such as X-rays and blood test results are stored and forwarded digitally, can the minister advise this House what backup plans are in place to have a system of redundancy available so that important health information is not inaccessible to health care workers during a communications outage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 159 – 3(3): Moving Forward on the Suicide Prevention Plan

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Again my questions are based around the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan. Has a business case been

established to figure out how much the implementation of the action plan will cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, I will have more to indicate in a prepared statement before too long and I assure the member that, no doubt, it will be included in my statement.

Preliminarily, I can say to the member that the implementation plan for this action plan is a three-year program that the partners are working on. Having said that, we need to work with our partners to provide a detailed costing of the three-year action plan. So I think that will take a bit of time and it could be ready, but when I do make my statement, it will include some of the costs involved.

Please be assured that this is a living document which will be adjusted from time to time to reflect changes and improvements that we have learned. I think that when I make a statement on that, these ideas will include part of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the federal government been approached to ensure that the GN has the resources necessary to fully implement the action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, currently the federal government provides a significant amount of funding through the aboriginal portion of the funding they normally channel through the GN and some of it goes to our partners. NTI and the Embrace Life Council normally receive about \$500,000 a year from the federal government, which they incorporated into their implementation aspect of the whole suicide action plan.

I can say to the member offhand, which I will provide in more detail, my colleague from the executive, our Premier, indicated that the budget funding for ASIST training, for instance, normally comes through the federal government contribution aspect; \$200,000 towards that program, ASIST training, and \$150,000 for community-related programming, which the Embrace Life Council will work with the community to figure out exactly how the community wishes to be involved.

So I'm not really in a position to describe how that would work because it's up to the Embrace Life Council, but we do work with them, we partner together, and our contribution, I can say to the member right off the bat, is really the overhead cost, which is significant as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm trying to pin down is whether there is adequate funding to be able to

implement the action plan itself. With the funding that he was referring to from the federal government, of which he spoke in terms of where it's allocated and how it's spent, will this funding be adequate to implement the action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My personal response is that funding is never adequate because we pretty much have a huge territory to cover travel costs as well as the other expenses that tend to add up. We are grateful to the Parliament, though, as they have issued a formal position on that. We intend to take advantage of that and seek further assistance from the federal government on that.

I think that if the Members of this House were to give support to the federal position, it would certainly help us a lot. We need more funding and we will do whatever we can within our own resources. Most of that will likely be announced as we head towards the operations and maintenance session in the wintertime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 160 – 3(3): Nunavut Version of ASIST

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The Nunavut Suicide Prevention Action Plan was tabled on September 28, 2011. I note that one of the objectives of the action plan is to deliver a Nunavut-specific version of the applied suicide intervention training to all interested Nunavummiut, called *Uqaqatigiigluk!* I practiced it but I didn't get it right; Talk About It! According to the plan, this initiative has been ongoing since April 2010.

Can the minister confirm that the Nunavut version of the ASIST is complete and, if so, would he agree to table a copy in the House before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure whether I'm speaking the same language with the member or not. From what I know, *Uqaqatigiigluk!* is an ongoing and living part of the implementation process. Whoever wishes to take advantage of that program, that program will remain in effect. I think it's a very important one and in my statement, I will indicate some statistics which may help the member.

Right now, the members are working hard to develop the programming aspects of the objectives in the action plan. Once these plans are in place, the program... The communities are also, as we speak, waiting further for more information on that. So I think the member can wait a few more days before he makes further questions and we may answer all of his questions then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am confused, so maybe I should get it clarified. My understanding was that the ASIST program, which is a document that has a core curriculum and specific objectives that they try to get across, was produced by a company, I believe, called Living Works.

Throughout the growth and development of the action plan and with the strategy, that ASIST workshop was what we always call "Nunavutized" through different panels, through assistance with NTI and different groups to make it more culturally relevant for people within Nunavut. My understanding was that it was supposed to be changed and written down so that it could then be presented to different communities in Inuktitut and with that culturally relevant component to it.

What I was asking is if that has been done because it is in the action plan under 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3, where it talks about this. It's supposed to be done and I was asking the question of whether it has been done and, if it has been done, if the minister could table that document here in the House before the end of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly could do that. I'll look into it and the member may wish to log on to the various websites. I'm sure that it's available on their website as

well, but I will look into the facts. If it's available, I'll table it.

What's more important for me to offer the member is whether or not he wishes to take advantage of the ASIST program and training. I am interested and I had asked a while ago that I should take part in that. So if some members wish to take ASIST training, it could be maybe a couple hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, it talks about coaches and the coaches would be the qualified individuals who have actually taken the ASIST workshop but then have taken that extra step to learn how to present the workshop. As the minister said, it's a very sensitive topic.

I'm just wondering: in terms of consistency across the territory and making sure that the key points within the ASIST workshop go out, who is actually responsible for keeping that log of coaches? Is it the Department of Health and Social Services? Is it one of the other partners? NTI? I'm just curious to find out: if we want to take it, then who do we get who is qualified and how do we find out who is qualified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly don't have that level of detail. I trust our partners that whoever they assign is qualified, no doubt about it. They're dealing with

mental health issues and so on. I would not at all undermine their professional ability to appoint someone and whoever they appoint is qualified. I can guarantee you that because otherwise, it will be difficult to fund that kind of a program if they would just pick someone on the street or whatnot. Once I table the information provided, it will, no doubt, contain that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank you for your answers, Minister Curley. Like you said, I'm sure a lot of people are curious about taking the ASIST and wanting to know how to take it. I have taken it myself back when I was working at Inuujaq School and it's definitely a valuable tool to help you understand and see signs for people who are possibly contemplating suicide and just helps you understand how to try and help.

I think there are a lot of people in the communities who want to be able to help and maybe they don't know how to help or they're scared to maybe cause a bigger problem by actually trying to help, so this program is very valuable. I'm just wondering: if there are individuals within the community... ?

I know I had asked the Premier this question and she said that teachers and staff within the school who are interested can talk to their principal and ask them, but for individuals in the community, say, you know, average people in the community, people who work for the hamlet, who do they go to? Is there a website that they can go to, to try and find out where the courses are and how

they can take them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. These are very good suggestions from the member. He's not alone in wanting more information. I know when I appeared before the mayors in the Kivalliq, there certainly was a discussion on that. I assured the mayors that I would the copies of the strategy as well as the action plan, and I will continue to do that and consult with my officials.

They will make the information available in the language that they can understand and probably in a variety of ways that they should make that information. When I do make a statement, I'm sure that that will be included in that. I will also encourage our officials to consult with our partners and that they simplify the information and provide them to the appropriate communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Members will note that the time for question period is elapsed. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit West, Madam Ell.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 098 – 3(3): Project Briefing on Piquituvit-Building our Capital: Places to Play, Protect and Prosper

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, Iqaluit's MLAs recently had the opportunity to meet with officials from the City of Iqaluit to discuss issues of concern to Nunavut's capital city.

I am pleased today to table a copy of a project briefing and report prepared by the city concerning that *Piquituvit-Building our Capital* report that the city wishes to proceed with in the coming years. I will be addressing this issue later at our session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Ell. Can I ask one of the pages to please bring the document to the front.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Tabled Document 099 – 3(3): 2011 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: 2011 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. I apologize. You were doing that as the Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 100 – 3(3):
Photograph of Grise Fiord
Powerhouse**

**Tabled Document 101 – 3(3): Canada
Ducked an Arctic Bullet**

**Tabled Document 102 – 3(3): Resolute
Bay Should Be Developed as a
Major Government Facility, Arctic
Security Hub**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two items to table today.

I wish to table a photograph of the powerhouse in Grise Fiord that was taken earlier this year. As members will note, the facility has been experiencing problems with flooding. Mr. Speaker, I am not an engineer, but I don't think that water and electricity go well together, so I encourage the Qulliq Energy Corporation to continue to work to address this situation.

Secondly, following up on my questions yesterday to the minister responsible for emergency management, I wish to table two recent articles from the *Hill Times* newspaper, both of which were written by the former commander of Joint Task Force North. The first article is titled "Canada ducked an Arctic bullet" and the second article is titled "Resolute Bay should be developed as a major government facility, Arctic security hub." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 103 – 3(3): Report
from the Integrity Commissioner**

Thank you, Members. I have a document to table. Pursuant to section 44 of the *Integrity Act*, I am tabling the Report of the Integrity Commissioner concerning the Member for South Baffin. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

**Motion 017 – 3(3): Legislative
Assembly Appointments and
Revocations – Notice**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that the Legislative Assembly make appointments and revocations to its standing committees and other positions.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills**

Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Notice

Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Notice

Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – Notice

Bill 19 – Family Support Orders Enforcement Act – Notice

Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – Notice

Bill 21 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 3 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have six notices of motions for first reading of bills, so if you will indulge me, I'll remain standing and read them all. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 17, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 19, *Family Support Orders Enforcement Act*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the first time.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 21, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 3*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Madam Premier.

Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Notice

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 21, 2011, that Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I just want to make it clear for the record that it is Bill 23 that has been given notice today for first reading.

Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

**Motion 017 – 3(3): Legislative
Assembly Appointments and
Revocations**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the Legislative Assembly to appoint such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly shall appoint members to the Management and Services Board;

AND WHEREAS section 43 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly shall elect two Deputy Chairpersons of the Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the Legislative Assembly for Iqaluit West, Pangnirtung, and Tununig have taken office;

AND WHEREAS the Member for South Baffin has been selected to serve on the Executive Council;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that the Legislative Assembly make appointments and revocations to its standing committees and other positions;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Ms. Monica Ell be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Mr. Joe Enook be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development.

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Ms. Monica Ell be appointed a member of the Management and Services Board;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Joe Enook be appointed a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Mr. Johnny Ningeongan as a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development and an alternate member

of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness be revoked;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Mr. Johnny Ningeongan be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Mr. Fred Schell as a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, a member of the Management and Services Board, a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

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 13, 14, and 15 with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

Before we proceed any further, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 15:24 and Committee resumed at 15:46

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

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We now have a quorum. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: (interpretation ends) Bills 13, 14, and 15. (interpretation) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence with Bill 15, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013*, and start with the Department of Community and Government Services. If time permits, Mr. Chairman, we will then proceed with the Department of Education. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will deal with the capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Minister Kusugak, do you have any opening comments before you appear before the Committee of the Whole? Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, my colleagues.

Yes, I have opening comments. Can I start now?

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am here today to update you on the 2012-13 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

CGS provides capital planning services to all departments to assist them in developing a wide range of infrastructure for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. CGS is also responsible for assessing and securing funding for the annual capital needs for all our communities.

The department ensures community input into the decision-making process via the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. This committee has a balanced government and hamlet membership, and has just recently completed the development of the long-term integrated community sustainability plans, or ICSPs, for each community in Nunavut. The completion of these plans will ensure that the future planning process takes into account all environmental, cultural, social, and economic goals. In addition, the ICSPs will provide both government departments/agencies and the community itself with a long-term vision for their infrastructure development.

Mr. Chairman, the GN is now in the process of implementing a new capital planning process with associated ranking criteria to strengthen the quality of the decision-making process. Changes to the existing approach to capital planning are required to better define the project scope during the business case development process. This will ensure

that projects are completed on time and on budget.

Mr. Chairman, to address the issue of granular, CGS is developing a comprehensive management strategy to ensure there is sufficient capacity at the community level to sustain the granular program over the long term. This strategy will address program delivery, commitment from other GN departments, security requirements, and user fees in order to generate revenues for municipalities so they can sustain the program. In addition, we will be expanding the Kitikmeot Granular Program for gravel crushing for both Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk during the summer of 2012.

In response to community requests for gasification technology for managing municipal solid waste sites, the department has completed a solid waste management study and is currently analyzing the results to determine best practices. Once the recommendations of the study are analyzed, the department will include management and construction of new solid waste sites in the capital planning process for consideration by the government.

The *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE)* has established new standards of effluent quality across Canada. The new standards are more stringent than those currently adopted in Nunavut's water licences. At present, these new standards do not apply in Nunavut. The strategy has granted Nunavut and other northern jurisdictions the opportunity to conduct science and research over a period of five years. In

February 2014, the period for research will end.

In response to this research window granted by CCME, the department has hired Dalhousie University to conduct long-term studies to better understand the capability of Nunavut's wastewater facility and methods which can enhance their effectiveness. The university will perform their northern wastewater research over a period of four to seven years.

Mr. Chairman, CGS, in consultation with INAC and NAMA, is working with municipalities to establish daily procedures to assist municipalities in complying with their water licence requirements. INAC is assisting the working group to seek federal funding for training municipal operators to improve the management of their water and waste management programs.

Mr. Chairman, some significant water and waste projects are already underway, including upgrades to the Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, and Sanikiluaq, as well as the Baker Lake Intake Pumphouse.

In the Petroleum Products Division, we continue to try and meet new and evolving regulations for storage facilities. The demand for petroleum products storage capacity continues to increase. We are currently working to meet these demands within the GN's limited resources.

With respect to our department's five-year capital plan, we recognize that we will be facing many challenges over the next five years. These include addressing

the deterioration in our aging community infrastructure.

I had the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to discuss the importance of adequate, predictable, flexible, and long-term funding to address municipal infrastructure needs with Denis Lebel, the federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities during the Minister of Local Government meeting held in Saint Andrews, New Brunswick this July.

Minister Lebel advised me that his staff will be travelling to all Canadian jurisdictions to seek input from provincial and territorial governments for future funding for the Gas Tax Program and other federal municipal infrastructure programs. We look forward to meeting with officials from Infrastructure Canada to discuss municipal infrastructure needs in Nunavut.

With continued funding from federal programs, such as the Building Canada Fund and extension of the Gas Tax Program, we are confident that we can continue to be effective in trying to meet the needs of our communities as they arise.

Mr. Chairman, we recognize that the timeline for repairs, renovations, retrofits, and replacements requested by the communities sometimes exceeds what can be accomplished in our individual yearly budgets. Our awareness of the needs and the challenges communities face helps us chart our course during the capital planning process. Our intention is to support communities and try to address

the needs of all Nunavummiut to the best of our ability and resources.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before you and I look forward to the questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, please, Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Kusugak, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister Kathleen Lausman and to my right is Assistant Deputy Minister Roy Green here with me today, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Welcome, Mr. Green and Ms. Lausman, to the Committee of the Whole. I believe the chair of the standing committee have opening comments. We are waiting for Stephen to get the opening comments and they will be brought down as soon as possible. As soon as you are able to start your opening comments, Mr. Rumbolt, you may. We don't have copies of your

opening comments, but if you would like to start your opening comments, we will just listen. We will read them once we have received them. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Members note that the department is proposing to spend \$31.27 million for the 2012-13 fiscal year. The department's capital budget was \$34,022,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year and \$35,954,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, this department's operations have a major impact on the success of the GN's overall capital planning process. On June 9, 2011, the Minister of Finance appeared before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2011-2012*. In his opening comments, the minister indicated that \$77.62 million would be allocated for departmental 2010-11 capital carryovers to 2011-12. Approximately 120 capital projects were carried over.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated in his opening comments that "the GN is now in the process of implementing a new capital planning process with associated ranking criteria to strengthen the quality of the decision-making process. Changes to the existing approach to capital planning are

required to better define the project scope during the business case development process. This will ensure that projects are completed on time and on budget.”

Mr. Chairman, members were also advised that the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee has “recently completed the development of the long-term integrated community sustainability plans, or ICSPs, for each community [in Nunavut]. The completion of these plans will ensure that the future planning process takes into account all environmental, cultural, social, and economic goals. In addition, the ICSPs will provide both government departments/agencies and the community itself with a long-term vision for their infrastructure development.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the department’s efforts concerning these important initiatives concerning capital planning for communities throughout the territory.

The standing committee is pleased to see that the department has included funding for arena upgrades for the communities of Coral Harbour and Arviat in its proposed 2012-13 capital estimates. Information provided by the department for these projects indicates that these upgrades will give the communities the ability to have artificial ice, which will provide a longer playing season. However, members would like to note that the thermosyphon technology does not actually provide artificial ice, but does assist in providing a longer playing session, and encourage the minister to clarify this issue. During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated that the department is exploring different

funding options so that all Nunavut communities can undertake improvements to existing recreational facilities. The standing committee looks forward to receiving updates on this issue and is very supportive of initiatives to improve the quality of recreational facilities in Nunavut given their important role in fostering health and wellness in our communities.

The standing committee notes that an additional \$500,000 has been allocated in the department’s proposed 2012-13 capital estimates towards planning for a new recreational complex in Rankin Inlet. To date, the department has allocated \$200,000 towards this project. Information provided by the department for this project indicates that its scope has changed from a basic arena to a complex that will include an “indoor games arena, curling rink, exercise/weight area, meeting or convention area with a kitchen and canteen area and an Olympic-sized swimming pool.” Members note that the information provided by the department does not include total projected costs for this new recreational complex.

Members note that information provided by the department for this project indicates that “it is not practical to determine the cost estimates until the feasibility study is completed and the scope of work is known.” However, members note that the department issued a request for proposals earlier this year for a feasibility study for an indoor sports facility in Rankin Inlet. The request for proposals stated that a final report was to have been submitted by March 31 of this year. Members encourage the minister to update the House on the status of this project given

that information provided to the standing committee during its review of the department's 2010-11 capital estimates indicated the total cost for the project would be approximately \$16.0 million. Although the standing committee is supportive of new recreational facilities in the territory, it is essential that projects be reasonable and affordable. It is also important that all communities enjoy a basic level of recreational infrastructure and that communities which currently lack such facilities as swimming pools be provided with clear information as to how they can apply for support. The standing committee will be considering these factors carefully as this project moves forward and its total costs become clear.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department's proposed 2012-13 capital estimates includes funding for a granular project for the community of Arviat. The department's 2012-13 capital estimates also includes a Kitikmeot granular project with a proposed budget of \$2.6 million. This project is a continuation of the previous funded quarry development project, which was to be in all Kitikmeot communities with each community purchasing or using existing equipment. However, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, he indicated in his opening comments that this project will only occur in the communities of Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk. Information provided by the department for this project indicates that "Communities are in grave need of assured stocks of granular material. Almost every municipality in Nunavut is in crisis when it comes to access to good granular material." Members look forward to receiving an update on the status of this pilot project and, if it

successful, strongly encourage the department to expand the initiative to other regions. Members also encourage the government to look into increasing its funding for granular projects.

Mr. Chairman, the provision of safe drinking water to our communities is a fundamental function of government. It is unclear as to how many of Nunavut's communities currently meet national guidelines for drinking water quality and how many do not. During the Legislative Assembly's consideration of the department's 2009-2010 capital estimates, members again recommended that the government commit to tabling a report on water quality in each of Nunavut's communities before the end of 2009 calendar year. This has not yet been done and members recommend that the minister commit to tabling such a report at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee also notes that the *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* was endorsed by a number of jurisdictions. On March 27, 2009, the Minister of Environment tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly concerning this issue. The minister's report indicated that "Nunavut, Québec and Newfoundland did not endorse the document." The report also stated that "Nunavut agrees in principle with the strategy but is extremely concerned about costs associated with implementation and the lack of direct funding options. Nunavut will certainly support the strategy when funding is more definitive."

I would also again note that MLAs have been advised that the cost of implementing the strategy in Nunavut

could be as high as \$500 million. Members have also been advised, however, that the Department of Community and Government Services and the Department of Environment have been working to build up an inventory of community facilities.

Members note that on September 15, 2010, a joint federal and territorial announcement was made for six infrastructure initiatives, one of which was for the construction of a new pumphouse for water treatment in Baker Lake. Members also note that on September 16 of last year, a joint federal and territorial announcement was made for the construction of a new sewage lagoon for wastewater treatment in Kimmirut. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on these significant projects. Members also urge both departments to continue lobbying the federal government for funding to upgrade Nunavut's wastewater facilities to meet proposed new federal regulations.

On September 23, 2010, the GN issued a news release which stated that "The Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) are working together to examine Nunavut's solid waste management practices as a whole. CGS will take the lead on establishing a Nunavut-Wide Solid Waste Management Strategy which will involve a comprehensive review of the current state of solid waste management in the territory. The strategy will examine a number of options for solid waste management for the territory, including recycling, incineration, [and] gasification." The standing committee was pleased to hear that both

departments are working together on solid waste management and look forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2012-13 capital estimates documentation indicates that \$2.25 million will be provided to the City of Iqaluit in block funding through the federal government's Gas Tax Fund. Members recommend that the minister table an annual report on the city's spending under this agreement so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public will have a clear picture of how the funds have actually been used. Members also urge the department to consider entering into such agreements with other communities that can demonstrate the capacity to manage such an arrangement.

Members note that the department's proposed 2012-13 capital estimates include \$5 million in funding for small capital projects, which includes such items as mobile equipment repairs, community planning studies, block funding, granular programs, and spill response equipment. Members encourage the department to clearly list the breakdown of these projects in the annual capital estimates document which is tabled in the Legislative Assembly given that they amount to approximately 15 percent of the department's total planned spending.

Members also note the department's proposed 2012-13 capital estimates includes \$620,000 in funding under its small capital projects budget for snow fencing in the communities of Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Gjoa Haven, and Repulse Bay. Members look

forward to receiving ongoing updates on these projects.

Mr. Chairman, from time to time, all Members of the Legislative Assembly receive official correspondence from the government that outlines budget transfers between capital projects that have occurred during the course of the fiscal year. It is essential that members be kept informed of the exact status of capital projects that have been impacted by such transfers and encourage the government to provide clear and detailed information in these advisories concerning the reasons for why funds have been transferred.

Members recognize the need for the department to address the issue of bulk fuel storage in our communities. The growth of communities and more stringent federal regulations will require the department to modernize and expand existing storage facilities. Improvements in this area may, in the longer term, help to reduce the need to periodically resupply communities by air, as has been required in prior years.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. You will all have time to comment if the committee members want to make a statement. However, we have to remind you of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), at the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a

matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. At this time, we will open the floor to general comments. Does anyone have any general comments with respect to the department? If there are none, then we can go to the page-by-page review.

Page H-3. This is the review of the Department of Community and Government Services. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Capital Planning. (interpretation) Are there any questions on H-3? Are you agreed that the capital estimates for 2012-13 are acceptable? Hold on. Let's wait a second.

Thank you. We are on (interpretation ends) Capital Planning. Branch Summary. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to get this clarified. I represent two smaller communities as I sit here and Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour are not the only small communities in Nunavut. I want more information from the minister prior to this funding being approved.

We tend to debate the standards and criteria when we talk about recreational facilities. How old is the plan that was submitted by Rankin Inlet, specifically where it states that it is towards a recreational complex? In my opinion and in looking at the current situation amongst our communities with respect

to large facilities, some communities have never had renovated facilities.

With respect to the standards and criteria, how old is this policy and is this policy being used at this time? I would like to understand that first, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Currently, with respect to the multiplex facilities, we don't have any standards and criteria, but these policies will be developed eventually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the reason why I question the current standards and criteria that are used for the capital planning process, including any future policies, as they don't seem to be a good foundation, at least from the perspective of a person from a smaller community. It is a policy to ensure that smaller communities are considered when looking at capital projects.

When we talk about standards and criteria, these smaller communities don't even have the same type of facilities and before they get recreational facilities, the larger centres move ahead with their capital projects. Due to this reason, I want to ask again: is it understandable or do I understand that the recreational multi-complex will be above and beyond the standards and criteria you are currently following? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Are you discussing the Rankin Inlet complex, or which facility are you referring to? Are you referring to the complex that is listed in this report?

In the days of the GNWT, the existing standards and criteria were transferred to the GN and they are almost identical, but we are working on developing standards and criteria for projects. There are different factors, as you pointed out, between the smaller communities and larger communities. If we used the same design for all communities, then we would run into problems with larger communities complaining about the small size while other communities would have too large a facility for their population. That is what we are working on.

We also follow the wishes of the communities as it pertains to their capital project planning. As an example, when we were consulting on the future community hall for Igloolik, we had to amend the particular building plans that we were using at that time. The end result was that the area for showcasing talent was amended and made larger to accommodate their theatrical work. Additionally, in Grise Fiord, we worked with the hamlet to do some retrofitting on their community hall.

We basically follow the wishes of the communities. Our general goal is to try and follow the wishes of the community. That is how this was arrived at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do you have any more questions? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want a bit more clarification on the issue of standards and criteria. Apparently we do not have standards and criteria at this time. For this multi-purpose complex facility in Rankin Inlet that we are discussing, I want clarification on whether the standards and criteria are being used even before they are established. Is that a good foundation? That causes a problem for me.

When a facility is being planned, such as the standards and criteria for projects within the municipalities, are you proceeding even though the smaller communities have not reached that level? Some of the facilities require renovation, but getting funding is problematic. The way I see it, it is an uneven playing field and that is what I am questioning here. Our government has stated that it will treat every community equitably and be fair.

What I am trying to voice on behalf of my communities especially is that the plans are outlined in the substantiation sheets where it states that the facility has been renovated. Some communities have not even had renovations, whether it is an arena or another facility. Some communities have never caught up and that is why I question it.

New standards and criteria policy being developed and even prior to their completion, it seems to already be a foundation for capital projects. I would prefer that we see the previous renovation work prior to a new plan.

This seems to give communities the idea that they will never get those facilities if they follow that. So I want to raise more questions on this. Even prior to adopting a standards and criteria policy, can you use the draft? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I do understand where you are coming from. However, the GNWT standards and criteria were our foundation for this particular project as our own standards and criteria haven't been completed. We don't want to just await the development of this, so we are trying to complete what the smaller communities wanted. Communities such as Grise Fjord and Igloolik wanted their projects. Otherwise, we would have to wait for the completion of the policy.

We try to follow the wishes and needs of the communities and we try to support the communities. Whenever we go to a community, and to use the example that you brought up, which is the Rankin Inlet capital project, we try to ascertain what type of facility they want, such as the hockey arena, and this applies to all communities. This applies whether we go to Coral Harbour or Rankin Inlet. We try to accommodate the needs of the communities and work on projects they have patiently awaited.

When they undertook that process in Rankin Inlet, the residents attend a public consultation meeting and they stated that a hockey arena wasn't their only need, but they wanted a multi-plex with a community centre, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, and other facilities. That was their vision for the future. For

that reason, they added these requests into a design plan. If they were included in this plan, it would be much easier to undertake the plan.

It doesn't state that all of these additional extensions will be constructed this summer and it doesn't state whether these additions would even be constructed. Within this designing process, all of the ideas submitted have been included as part of the community's wishes, but if they were included in the overall design, it would be less expensive to start planning for these additional wishes of the residents.

To use the example of the hockey arena, if they were to have that approved, they would have to look for additional funding from other organizations as the Nunavut government is not the only funding agency. If they wanted to add a swimming pool, it would already be in the design plans of the complex. Similarly, if they wanted to add a recreation facility, all of the piping, resources, and piles would already be in the plan. In my opinion, the residents had a good vision of what they wanted for their future and it will not add much to the design phase and the project planning.

I support the wishes of all hamlets in all of Nunavut, irrespective of whether it is a small or large community. Whenever a community is consulted about a facility, their input is added to design and plan. Whenever a public consultation is presented in your community, please go and submit your suggestions about the future design of your local facility. This is all they are doing in this design phase, which is not occurring outside of the community plan. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. I hope that was understandable.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. I want to ask this question. I wonder whether or not the minister or one of his officials can identify how many communities have standard sized swimming pools. We are not discussing Olympic-sized pools, so if someone can identify how many communities have regular sized pools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to swimming pools, I believe there are six communities. I can't really delineate how many, but I believe there are five or six communities that have swimming pools. I'm not sure exactly how many.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to understand properly and I want the minister to understand that many communities don't have facilities and some communities that have swimming pools, based on my experience, offer a seasonal swimming pool, but I know that there are not very many. I can use Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet as examples. However, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet have swimming pools. In the Kivalliq, we call them *Nalugalaarvik*.

Due to that, I wanted the minister to understand that some communities don't even have any facilities, but other communities that already have these facilities are clamouring for larger facilities. In that regard, the service provided by the government is not equitable. I haven't been pushed to speak about this, whether they are from the Baffin or the Kitikmeot or even from my fellow Kivalliq residents.

As the MLA representing Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, I can see the difference in how you treat each community. If I use Coral Harbour as an example, I keep getting encouraged to push for a swimming pool in their community, yet we have never even reached that phase where we have a swimming pool, and then we see other communities with an existing pool requesting an Olympic-sized pool. I wonder whether the smaller communities will be considered when they request these facilities.

I noted that the minister stated that the bigger communities tend to get larger facilities, but I want him to also notice that the communities, especially the smaller decentralized communities, have never even received a swimming pool, yet other communities are requesting Olympic-sized pools. I don't think it would really matter either way. However, with the majority of communities not even having an existing swimming pool, we already see plans for a larger swimming pool with the current standards and criteria. I don't think there is even a vision since it is one sided.

I prefer that we complete the standards and criteria policy and I envision that perhaps when they start using them, I

would see progress. Without the final standards and criteria policy, Mr. Chairman, the process will never treat communities equitably. We should be completing the parameters that can be used for future facilities. We ought to be asking if the policy has been completed, at least I think that would be fairer. That is what I wanted to get clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, thank you. I'm not just trying to represent Rankin Inlet, but I want you to understand, Mr. Ningeongan, that this is just a planning and design phase. It can be used by Coral Harbour. Since you cited the example of Coral Harbour, if the hamlet requested a swimming pool and put it into the capital plan, then the planning and design specialists would arrive in the community. That's another option you may have. It doesn't state here that Rankin Inlet will get it; it just states that they are conducting a planning and design phase. If they wish to move ahead, they may be able to undertake that using private money.

I don't think communities should just wait for government funding, especially when they are planning future facilities down the road. As a department, we will not stop any community from requesting facilities, whether it is Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, or Chesterfield Inlet. Yes, Rankin Inlet has a swimming pool and I know that for a fact because I used to be a mayor of the community. We got a swimming pool by raising our own funds and not using any government funds.

The hamlet and the residents of Rankin Inlet raised funds to buy a swimming pool. They didn't wait for any government funding or design specialists. Once they made a decision to get this facility, they were committed to getting a swimming pool. They undertook their own initiative to get it without any assistance from this department. I am proud of their efforts.

I think that's how I see it. Once the planning and design phase is over, whether it is an Olympic-sized pool or just a regular sized pool, if the hamlet can find the funds, let them do so. We don't want to stop any hamlet from trying to build their own facility if they have a long-term vision and funding available. If the government wants to provide assistance, they can do so.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to remind members that when the department officials arrived for a public meeting, the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet and the residents submitted these ideas for these facilities that they wanted included. They incorporated these ideas into the plan. It doesn't state here that they will be constructed this year or the next. It's just speaking about the design plans and the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. You still have some time left if you want to use it, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I was told I have a little bit of time left, I thank you. This other concern I have, Minister Kusugak, is that the smaller communities don't get funding to get to

the planning and design phase and operational funds to allow for a swimming pool to be utilized for the whole year.

I think part of the reason is the federal government has to contribute to infrastructure funds. If you're trying to get a complex or recreational facility, it would be expensive, as we both know. The Government of Nunavut would contribute about 25 percent and the federal government provides 75 percent. That's the way things are done now. If the smaller communities were to submit 25 percent of the total cost, that is a lot of funds that poses a barrier and some communities have deficits in their budget.

Due to these reasons, in following the standards and criteria issue, has any policy been created? Are there any standards and criteria policies in your department in case any communities want a certain facility? Do the smaller communities that don't have large budgets for capital projects need to undertake their own initiative and finally qualify for funding? That's what I would like to find out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): With respect to the matter you are referring to, Mr. Ningeongan, that is good information to receive and that is what we would like to see. However, the capital planning process we utilize today generally has problems or issues related to that process, as we have seen since we became members.

The plans that would apply to their facility should be in a new capital planning process that we have spoken about and should be incorporated into this new process if the process will be revamped. Once it is, it could be incorporated into that process. That is why the capital planning process for smaller communities, indeed for any community irrespective of their size, should not be dependent on its size.

We're talking about swimming pools, recreation facilities, a soccer field, or another facility. We are aiming for the time when communities can better plan out how to obtain these facilities. I think it's important that it's being included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are you done? You have a little bit of time left, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have a little bit of time and I want to save a bit of time in case my colleagues have other questions. I will stop there for now and I hope that my time is added to that.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): There are still two names I have who want to comment on this issue. I want to remind you again that we are on page H-3, but these capital plan funds are separated into pages H-4 and H-5. Perhaps we can include these pages in our review.

(interpretation ends) Capital Planning. \$25,397,000. (interpretation) That is what I'm trying to remind you of on H-4 and H-5, that these are the amounts

allocated on those pages. There are still two members. Mr. Oshutapik, did you want to comment?

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand the issue that my colleague raised, so I wanted to ask this question. You stated that the standards and criteria policy is just being drafted, but it already seems to be used. If I misunderstood, I would like to get that clarified.

My secondary question related to this matter is the engineer review. I believe the minister stated it's just in the design and planning phase. If the plan is approved by the community, would the community that wanted these kinds of facilities have a smoother path? Is that what you're planning here? When you talk about a complex with multiple facilities, you seem to be in the planning stage. Is that just the design plan?

Even if it's not an Olympic-sized pool, a small pool in the design prior to construction would be known by the department, as you seem to be talking about this aspect, but you spoke about the standard and criteria issue. Even prior to this being completed, it already seems to be in use. Is this part of this?

Those are the three questions I have. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. I wonder how to make it understandable.

Mr. Chairman, during our past, the GNWT established standards and criteria

which stated that if a community is this size, then you would qualify for a facility. We all know that once a community hall or an arena or a gymnasium is built, it is considered too small even prior to people entering the facility. We are working with this standard and criteria as a base. Although we don't really follow it, it is there as a guide to our planning. Even prior to the new policy, this is what we want to follow in this process here in Nunavut.

Even though that is the case, our officials visit communities and during those visits, they discuss projects that are going to be constructed in the next season. As an example, in Igloodik, when the community hall was due for construction in the next year, our officials went to the community, met with the hamlet officials, and also held a public meeting. They spoke with interested parties and they said, "This is the type of facility that you might be able to get. So would you want to add more or is this sufficient?"

Based on the feedback from the public as to the type of facility they wanted and the changes in the design, that they want to add this part or others, if it's possible, then we make those changes to reflect the local priorities. If it's not going to add to the budget, then we look at the design plan and its change. That is also how we conducted our process in Grise Fiord and we also do that in other communities.

With respect to the comment or at least the issue that we're deliberating and where it pertains to the recreational complex in Rankin Inlet, this process was also undertaken with the meeting between the hamlet and the public.

Although I wasn't there, they shared their vision and the types of facilities they wanted in the recreational complex. With that process used, it led to the new design.

I think we should remember that the planning is just one step towards construction. I would want to support them. I'm not sure when it would be finished, but they have a good vision of how they want to develop their community. So we're in support of the hamlet and every hamlet that has a vision of how they want to develop their community, especially with respect to planning these recreational facilities, schools, hamlet offices, and the like.

I hope that clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Oshutapik, do you have any other comments? Please proceed, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. These projects, as we have noted with facilities created in different communities, change slightly due to the distances between communities, so the way they are constructed also have to be slightly different.

When you refer to the Rankin Inlet design plan that we are discussing here, can this plan be used? If the Hamlet of Pangnirtung wanted a similar design, because we have different terrain from Rankin Inlet, we will run into different obstacles. They have to change the design somewhat based on where the facility is going to be located.

When some of these engineers make their plans and they go to a different type of terrain, it's no longer appropriate. Perhaps prior to completing this plan, if you looked at all communities as well as the different terrain, then they could conduct planning in that way. That would be better from what I see.

When some members see this plan, this project might work in Rankin Inlet as it was planned and members have had that perception as we heard more details. If it was based on each community's location, with that being the defining factor, then fewer members would have misunderstood the intentions, at least as it applies to me. I will stop there. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Your comments are very understandable. Indeed, as we all remember, when we dealt with recreational facilities in the GNWT days, whenever an official would arrive, it would be a set plan as it would include a curling rink. I believe most rinks included a curling rink, although some of the citizens weren't even interested in curling.

A curling rink was rarely utilized because they allocated all communities a set plan using standards for each type of facility. If they had thought about trying to consult with communities about their interests, whether they wanted a curling rink included with their arena or some other facility attached to the rink, it would have been a lot easier.

If I use Pangnirtung as an example, when we reach the day some day in the future, whether they wanted a swimming pool or an arena, it would be preferable to see a departmental official go to Pangnirtung to discuss the facility. If you state that your community wishes to add an addition in the future during the review of the proposed facility and whether that facility could be included in the design drawing due to the size of the lot and the room for expansion, it is only a future option.

If a community required a new swimming pool in the future when the design drawing is being done, they may request to include a bowling alley in the drawing so that it will be another capital project down the road for the community as one huge drawing. I doubt that whole plan with its additions would be constructed as a single facility. Perhaps it would be built in the future when the community finds more funding to build the future bowling alley or other facility. At least in that way, the blueprints for the facility would already be included. It would also identify to your community, "This is a future addition we want down the road, so this is what this huge complex blueprint is in this case."

It doesn't state anywhere in this plan that the hockey arena, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, and all of their dreams for the future additions will all be built in Rankin Inlet, causing envy amongst other communities. We shouldn't even be thinking that because it doesn't say that anywhere here. It just speaks to the blueprints that will be drafted, along with the possible future additions that they want. None of the additions would be funded by this government without

the approval of each capital project by this Assembly.

This is just a long-term capital plan submitted by the community that identifies future additions down the road, pending their eventual inclusion and submission. I totally support all hamlets to have long-term blueprints so that their capital project planning is done for many years, if we ever reach that stage and day.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I just want to remind members that we're dealing with capital projects. Oh, it's Minister Kusugak. I apologize. I am sincerely sorry.

>> *Laughter*

I saw Tagak's name earlier and continued.

I want to remind you that we are dealing with capital projects. I just want to hear the banter back and forth with the debate, but we have to come to a consensus on whether this will be approved or whether they will deduct some funding or some other decision you arrive at. I still have three names on my list of people who want to comment. So if you have any questions that can help to resolve this issue with relation to capital projects, then I will proceed with the three names. I believe you're done, Mr. Oshutapik. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to provide some information because we dealt with this in the past. I, too, have some deep concerns about the capital planning process and whether the communities are treated equitably.

Some of our communities don't even have any facilities. We don't have a swimming pool nor do we have a baseball field while other communities are making long-term capital plans towards large projects, such as an Olympic-sized swimming pool. It is disconcerting to me because the government should be looking at communities as being all equal or that communities could at least have the same number of facilities.

The previous comment made by my colleague that some communities want a huge recreation complex. It would good for them to proceed if they are able and they have funding. For our smaller communities especially, it seems like such an impossible dream to think about these facilities since some municipalities are facing financial dire straits. This is my biggest concern in this case. I know for a fact that if communities all had recreational facilities or other facilities, the lifestyle becomes healthier.

The youth would lead happier lives as it is easier to live life when there are various recreational activities in their local towns and I'm not just talking about swimming pools, hockey arenas, or baseball fields. We need other facilities as well because when our youth can keep boredom at bay, they have less time to direct towards crime. If our youth are happy, then they will not commit more crimes. When you are able to keep your body in shape, you can become a happier person.

Some communities don't even have facilities, yet we want to expend huge amounts of funds without a proper foundation, as we have just heard. As the minister stated, we are using the policies

we inherited from the GNWT as a foundation. Personally, my expectations are to see a very clear outline in Nunavut that can be a proper foundation so that each community can know exactly what to do and what base they have to apply for these recreational facilities if they want to plan for them.

I am very proud of the communities that have undertaken their own initiatives to use their own funding to create these projects. I am very proud of them. However, for those communities that have fewer capabilities or smaller communities, this is just a pipe dream to them because they don't have the capacity. I believe the government has to treat every community equitably and that's what I wanted heard because I am really concerned about this.

Even though we have no foundation, here we already want a large amount just for the planning and design process. Perhaps we ought to prepare a proper foundation first. Wouldn't that be better? That way, we could have a proper foundation that every community understands and so that each community can start to prepare long-term capital plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. You may want to respond, although I didn't hear a question. I give you the floor, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Indeed, as communities look at the long-term vision, they have to identify the funding for the design. It would be good to see these blueprints completed, especially in light of all the planning done to date. If that process just stopped

in mid-process, the work would be for nothing.

We have to remember that there was also funding identified to renovate the Rankin Inlet arena. What happened instead was the hamlet returned the funding to the federal government, saying that perhaps it would be better not to renovate the arena since it wouldn't meet their needs and to return the funding and use it towards longer term planning for a new arena. This is the way that the hamlet went ahead. They could have used that money which was already approved, but they returned that funding because the community didn't want to see this project just stop halfway.

I agree with my fellow members that we have to plan properly so that communities get the kind of facilities they need and we have to ensure that it proceeds. We have to have proper capital planning for each community, whether they are small or large communities.

The residents of Rankin Inlet have only stated what they hope to see in the long-term future, especially where it applies to their community's facilities plans for many years. If this process keeps going, then the project costs would start increasing and more money would be spent conducting a new planning process for their facilities. I am just in support of the community and I would like to see this proceed to complete the planning because they are trying to develop their community.

When a plan is made for the future of a community, even if it's a small or large community, I believe we have to support

each other. We all talk about the need for supporting our communities in Nunavut, so I support this plan, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I'm kind of overwhelmed. When we first started, I had asked for general comments, but no one responded. That is why I tried to go to the page-by-page review. We seem to be returning to the question period when I asked for general comments. I have caused myself to become confused and I apologize for not chairing the meeting properly.

I would like to go ahead with acknowledging the three names so we can actually return to the page-by-page review. After Ron Elliott makes his comments, it will be Mr. Rumbolt, and then Mr. Ningeongan. I want to go to the page-by-page review, but we're still lingering on the general comments. That's why I was confused because nobody spoke up when I asked for general comments. That's okay because every member has to be able to understand what we're talking about.

I just wanted to identify that it was my fault for causing confusion and I apologize for that. I had asked for general comments, but since no one spoke up, I assumed there were none while it turned out there were lots of comments. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to add to the confusion because I don't actually have general comments. Mine are specific questions on page H-4 and H-5, so I will hold off until then. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Rumbolt, do you have specific questions to the page that we are reviewing or do you have general comments? (interpretation ends) Go ahead, Mr. Elliott. We are now (interpretation) reviewing page by page. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clear as mud, eh?

On H-4, specifically dealing with the new Rankin Inlet recreational complex/arena, we originally allocated \$200,000, which was supposed to be a study for the arena to see what was needed to be done. I seem to remember the discussions. It was mainly around repairs to the facility and whatnot. Now you're coming back and your department is asking for \$500,000 this year. In some of the substantiation forms, it talks about yes, an arena, but it's sort of grown to a weight room, a swimming pool, a 1,000-seat facility, and not just a regular sized swimming pool but an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

I think one of the things that all members are worried about, and it's obviously coming out with what some of the members are saying with their general comments, is where is this going in terms of \$500,000 starting with the planning and the process. That could lead into, in terms of class "X" estimates and whatnot, an estimate of maybe \$100 million for a facility which the community is proposing. I'm just curious if you could give us an update as to where your department sees this project going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think our department sees this as going through the planning and design stage and where it goes from there, I don't know, but there would definitely be planning and design funding for this amount.

I think it would be better if I had Mr. Green respond further to your inquiry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead, Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project with regard to the Rankin Inlet arena came about, I think, four or five years ago. It was originally under the MRIF project and when the community looked at the cost to repair the arena alone, I think we were looking at something like a cost in excess of \$10 million just to do the upgrades to an arena that no longer met the needs of the community.

So it was decided to come back to the Legislative Assembly and look for funding, and that was the direction from the community, to look at replacing the existing arena with a new arena. During the feasibility study, the consultation looked at not only the short-term needs, but it also looked at the long-term needs of the community and this is where the idea of the complex had come up.

But at this point in time, we're still finalizing the feasibility study and looking at the planning. So there's no decision at this point in time to say that we're going to move towards a complex

and that might be something that would be phased in over time, but if you're looking at the long term, you certainly need to identify site development so that you can have the available land if you look at expanding that facility over the long term.

At this point in time, we're really just finalizing the feasibility study and looking at the plan and design. If there's a significant change in terms of the scope of work going forward, then the Legislative Assembly will have an opportunity to sit down and review the revised design and the funding.

The community is not only looking for contributions from the government, but they are also looking for contributions from the private sector. So, really, we're looking at a lot of other funding options at this point in time, so I think it's too early to say how this is going to unfold. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. For my next question with the feasibility study that's completed and the plan and design that Mr. Green was talking about, are we approving \$500,000 for a plan and design for an arena specifically or are we approving \$500,000 for a plan and design for a recreational complex? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: If you could have Mr. Green respond, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Green, you're up.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just based on the feasibility study, we're probably likely looking at this as a phase 1 project. It's just looking at probably the arena replacement at this point in time. Basically the feasibility study indicates to us what type of facility that we would need to be sustainable over the long term. If a multiplex is not sustainable, then we won't be moving in that direction, but at this point in time, the critical need is the existing arena is too small to meet the requirements of the community.

So the first priority in the planning phase would probably look at designing an arena that meets the needs of the community and we need to look at not only short term, but when you're looking at an arena, you're looking at a facility that's probably got a 25- or 35-year life cycle. So you've really got to make sure that when you're building, you've got a plan not for today but for tomorrow as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. My next question is on H-5 in regard to Iqaluit with the RECAPP and the request for \$600,000. We have approved roughly \$1.8 million in previous budgets, which, I think, in last year's capital budget, it was \$1.4 million and there was probably supplementary appropriation for another \$400,000.

Again, with the \$600,000, what's specifically going to be completed with the funding? I think, in questions that I

have asked before, the RECAPP is a property management program that the department uses to manage its assets, but if you could sort of break down where that \$600,000 will be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps it would be better if my deputy minister responds. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. RECAPP is actually a life cycle planning software system. It's going to allow our department to actually get condition assessments on every asset in the community that the community owns and that the government owns. So we're doing a full data capture. We're going to every community was consultants to actually undertake doing engineering condition and assessments. That information is going to be used to plan out life cycle replacement of roofs and boilers, doors and windows, and other things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So part of the funding will actually be used to pay consultants to go the communities to do the assessment and for airfare and hotel accommodations. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct. It's actually quite an undertaking to do condition assessments for every facility and every asset out there. Some of these funds are also going to be used for training because, once we capture this data, we want to make sure we're actually using it, so that we've got staff able to understand how to use the database and update it on an annual basis. So it is spread over a period of time.

We have just awarded the contract to do the condition assessments and it's going to depend on how many folks will go to each community, at what point in time, and depending on weather, and so on, how many assets they can actually gather information on. So it is a multi-year effort and that's why the money is spread over a number of phases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the questions that I had asked many times about the integrated community sustainability plans... . When it was explained to me with the consultants who did that work, I thought there was property assessment and assessment of what assets were in all of the communities. Did that not happen with the integrated community sustainability plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Perhaps it would be better if Ms. Lausman responds to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was actually a general inventory of assets undertaken for the ICSPs and it was at a fairly high level. So it just captured basic information on square footage and size, storeys, and that kind of thing. In order to actually plan for life cycle reinvestment, we need a much more engineering approach and a lot more detail. So we are building on that basic inventory to continue with this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Government of Nunavut's implementation, they're working towards the language plan that it's been doing across the territory. Will it be assessing possibly while these people are... ? Again, I'm thinking of cost-saving measures. Rather than getting another consultant to go around looking at buildings to see what signs are needed, are they going to assess what type of signage each of the buildings need, whether they meet the standards set by the Language Acts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have actually been working with the hamlets and hamlet staff. We want to capture signage requirements, not so much interior buildings. We can have more information on that from this exercise, but it's really street signs and those sorts

of things that we want to capture with the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming we will be having the Department of Education before us tomorrow. In terms of some of the funding that we allocate to them for capital, it also requires them going around to different communities and checking what assets they have within the education structure. Are you working with them and will everything that they capture be implemented and put into this RECAP program as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are actually working with Education and it's our desire that this exercise captures condition assessments on all buildings. So that would include schools, health care facilities, wildlife offices, and municipal hamlet community halls, etcetera, including lagoons, and so on. It doesn't make practical sense to have more than one exercise around this, so we're blitzing the communities and capturing information on all the assets in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on page H-5, for the Tangible Assets under Rankin Inlet, there is a mobile sewer thaw truck, \$400,000 wanting to be approved for that.

Again I'll just go back to different things that have happened over the past couple of years. We, at one point, had in the capital estimates for Grise Fiord a \$321,000 bulldozer that kind of fell off that for capital assets. When I asked what happened with it, the minister assured me that it would be something that could be purchased under the Mobile Equipment Fund.

I'm just wondering: for something like this, is that not something the hamlet could purchase through the Mobile Equipment Fund? Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Chairman. Unlike the other municipalities, the Rankin Inlet municipality does not maintain the water and sewage services in the community nor do they get funding when people have to pay their water bills. All of that goes straight to the Government of Nunavut. Water and sewage utilidor maintenance is the responsibility of the government and not the municipality, so that's why it would have to be a government asset. It's a government responsibility to maintain the system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of my questions have been answered by previous members, but just for some clarification and some continuation questions on the Rankin Inlet recreational complex, it's very difficult when we're in small

communities to accept when a community wants bigger and better for their communities when we never have the basics, such as swimming pools.

My question to the minister is: how do we explain to our communities that you want to approve \$500,000 towards a new complex in Rankin Inlet, where our communities don't have any swimming pool at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could have Mr. Green explain it. Maybe he will explain it better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead, Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The feasibility study and some of the information that's in the substantiation sheet is totally based on an arena complex within the community. I think I mentioned earlier that that's something we're looking at from a long-term perspective. At this point in time, the \$500,000 will be used to look at replacing the existing arena in the community with a new arena that meets the long-term needs of the community.

In terms of the swimming pool and some of the other infrastructure that would be in this complex, this is something that would probably be considered over time, if and when there is funding available either from government and some other private sector sources, so that we can move forward and make this a sustainable project. But at this point in time, the concentration in the planning

phase would be looking at an arena with a site that allows the community to expand for a swimming pool or some other recreational activity in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we're going back now. This \$500,000 is basically for upgrades to the arena now or the replacement of the arena, not necessarily the Olympic-sized swimming pool. It's still very difficult for me to accept the fact, considering that if you read the scope of work with this, it does state Olympic-sized swimming pool and other facilities.

If Rankin Inlet wants to go out and get funding from other sources and build such a complex, so be it, if somebody else is funding. But if our government is funding it, it's very difficult for us when, again like I said before, our communities don't have such things as a swimming pool and never had one.

So I'm wondering if the minister can assure us that all communities in Nunavut will get basic recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, before any community, such as Rankin Inlet, gets bigger and better [facilities] using GN funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the funds to construct swimming pools or arenas or schools go through this House, so you will have a say in whether it happens or not. For me

to say it won't happen or it will happen, well, that's why we go through this process, Mr. Chairman.

Again I encourage municipalities to look at building infrastructure in their communities if they can build the infrastructure. If they can build multi-million dollar infrastructure in their communities, then all the government has to do is pay for the planning and design. That's good for the community and good for the government. That's what I think anyway.

It's important that all communities get the same or similar or what kind of recreation facilities they need. I agree with him there, and I will do whatever I can to help every municipality improve their recreational and other facilities in their communities. We've had discussions around a few tables to see how this government or future governments could improve recreational facilities in municipalities. I think we have come a long way.

It's nice to see that the new arena in Pond Inlet will finally be there this year. They have waited a long time. They were the first ones to get their arena years ago and now they're getting the newest one. So now all the municipalities will have arenas and I look forward to the day when all the municipalities have swimming pools. I will support every call from a municipality to have a swimming pool, regardless of their size of population, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do you have any further questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even when this planning and design is done and if this budget is approved, the minister stated that it would be great if all communities could come up with the funding to build multi-million dollar facilities, but the reality is that the smaller communities will never have the funding. They will never come up with the funding without the aid of the government. That is the stumbling block I'm having. Whether we approve this design or not, the reality is we will depend on the government.

That was just a comment and I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given all the information that the members have highlighted this afternoon and given the fact that we have not actually put in place to set the stage for any future setting for standards and criteria, I personally have a whole lot of trouble trying to approve this \$500,000. So therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask that we break for 10 to 15 minutes so that I can prepare a motion on the item I have been asking questions about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Okay, I'll use my discretion as the Chairman and we will take a 10-minute break. After the break, we will get back to this item.

>>Committee recessed at 17:19 and resumed at 17:39

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for returning to the Committee of the Whole. The item we are dealing with is (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital Planning. (interpretation) We are reviewing page H-3, H-4, and H-5.

Mr. Ningeongan wanted to put forward a motion before we continue with our review. Go ahead, Mr. Ningeongan.

Committee Motions

**Committee Motion 002 – 3(3):
Deletion of \$500,000 from the
2012-13 Capital Estimates of the
Department of Community and
Government Services**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move that the \$500,000 in proposed funding for the “New Recreation Complex (Arena)” project be deleted from the 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for a recorded vote on the matter. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. I would like to remind you that all members have the right to speak to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion will speak first and has the right to the last reply. To the motion. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut, our government is proclaimed as a consensus style of government and I prefer that model because it can make

things equal. I have made note of that and that is my foundation.

However, the concern I had and the reason for the motion is due to the fact that this process seems to be differentiating between communities without the right kind of foundation and that is my reasoning behind the issue of standards and criteria. Here we are using very old standards and criteria while trying to develop new facilities without a new policy being completed.

As members raised their questions and comments about this process, which I listened to, I found that I am not the only one concerned about this particular process. Due to that reason, Mr. Chairman, I have made my comment short and concise. The smaller communities within Nunavut have to also be part of the system.

I'll stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I open the floor to any comments to the motion. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be able to support the motion as it is worded. My reason is that I believe Mr. Ningeongan misunderstood this funding.

It doesn't state that it is planning for a new swimming pool or recreational facilities. The \$500,000 is just for (interpretation ends) planning and design for an arena only. That's all this \$500,000 is budgeted for: planning and design of the arena in Rankin Inlet. It's not planning and design for a swimming pool, for a games arena, and all those

other things that you may think. That's not what this \$500,000 would do. To plan and design for a swimming pool complex/arena with those other things that are written in this sheet would be in the millions of dollars.

This is merely to plan and design, Mr. Chairman, an arena in the community of Rankin Inlet, the same community that gave back a lot more money than this that they didn't want to waste on renovating the existing arena that they have. The community felt that it was a waste of money. They gave back a lot more money than \$500,000 because they didn't want to waste the government money. Instead, the community wanted to start working on building a new arena. If you take this \$500,000 out, it will mean that the community of Rankin Inlet will have to not have any more plans for a new arena. All this is doing is planning and designing for an arena, not a complex, not an Olympic-sized swimming pool or a wading pool of anything.

Colleagues, I want you to know that this is merely a hockey arena, Mr. Chairman, and I hope my colleagues will understand that. The community has plans, yes, to build swimming pools and all those other things. And we, as a government, should not fault communities for those aspirations. This \$500,000 that will be used is not going to be used at all for planning and design of a swimming pool or anything like that. It will be used for a hockey arena.

I really hope, colleagues, that you will rethink of removing this \$500,000. If you say that because it's going to change and because it's standards and criteria, well, before the standards and criteria

were ever finished, we have started putting in the thermosyphon ice things in each community. We have worked with the Municipality of Igloodik to fix up their planning and design over and above or outside the original scope. We did that in Grise Fiord. We're working with municipalities.

Mr. Chairman, the standards of arenas have not changed and this won't change them. I really hope that you will rethink this. This is merely planning and design for a hockey arena of \$500,000. Now once this is done, I hope, colleagues, you will support this because once this is done, then the municipality will start looking for funds outside this government if it has to build a hockey arena.

Take the swimming pools and all those other things out of your mind for a moment because they're not part of this \$500,000. They have nothing to do with this \$500,000. If we made it muddy and made you think that way, I apologize. When they did this proposed project, they should have never included the swimming pool and stuff like that because that's not what this \$500,000 will be for. I assure you it's only for the planning and design of an arena.

I hope, colleagues, that you will join me in voting down this motion because if you don't, then our fine community of Rankin Inlet will not be able to plan and design a hockey arena, one that they need very badly, one that is so deteriorated that they have even given back the money to the Nunavut Government to say, "No, we don't want to renovate this arena anymore because we're throwing good money after bad and what we want to do is plan and

design a new one.” And that’s where the planning and designing started for this. We took the money back and the government said, “Yes, okay, we will take the money back and we will help you plan and design.” That’s where we are at and now we will just say, “No, we should have took that money, a lot more than \$500,000, and painted the place.”

Mr. Chairman, I am pleading with my colleagues to think twice. You’re not voting on a swimming pool. You’re not voting on an arctic sports facility. You’re not voting on all the other things that may be highlighted in here that are the dreams of the community. You’re voting on whether Rankin Inlet should get planning and design for a hockey rink. That’s all that this will accomplish, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) I hope my colleagues will reconsider this motion prior to the vote because we’re only talking about a hockey arena. If members disapprove, then it will cause a lot of grief to Rankin Inlet because they are very much into hockey. Every year, they have a hockey team sent out by dint of all their fundraising so that they can hold hockey tournaments.

If you have ever played there or attended a hockey game, every night when the senior men are playing, there are between 200 and 300 people watching just a regular hockey game. It can get kind of dangerous due to the overcrowding, especially when there is an intense hockey game. This arena is utilized for a lot of hockey tournaments, which draws teams from all over Nunavut.

I want this motion defeated. It is designed to stop the construction of a recreational facility in Rankin Inlet. We have all deliberated about recreational facilities and the need to support our youth. We make these statements, yet this one community that is planning a long-term capital plan around just its hockey arena will not be approved. It is a serious problem if we are going to do that. So, Mr. Chairman, I want to work with my colleagues to defeat this motion to delete the \$500,000 towards the planning and design of a hockey arena. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand part of the reasoning, but I don’t fully understand it. I’m making this statement to everyone here and the public in Nunavut: Nunavut residents maintain that our youth are our priority. We state that our youth are at risk.

I can tell you that this hockey arena is over 30 years old. It was built when I was an MLA in the NWT legislature. It was one of the very first arenas built. It’s now very old and dilapidated. It’s quite cold even inside the arena. It’s not conducive to elders, especially when they want to enter. It can be dangerous, especially if there is a blizzard due to the placement of the door because it is facing the south where the prevailing winds are.

The members keep stating that the youth are our priority and that they go through hard times and are at risk. Today questions are raised about youth in this predicament. Look here, you are trying

to vote on a facility that would really be utilized by many youth, but because it just happens to be the community of the minister, it becomes the reason behind this disapproval. That's not even funny. I don't understand why the member is doing that, Mr. Chairman.

In looking at our future, this is problematic because you are elected to represent your constituencies in this government. If we're going to pick and choose which community gets funding, then it will become problematic because the members state that we don't have any rules and procedures. This is also hard to understand. Due to that reason, we have to deliberate carefully and take into consideration these kinds of issues.

We haven't heard any concrete reasons from the members and due to that reason and because of the time, I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley has made a motion to report progress and the motion is not debatable. Let me get people to approve the motion to report progress and we will return to the committee meeting tomorrow. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Minister Kusugak, I would like to thank you and your officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. I know we're not done yet. Once we have completed the department, there will be other comments and closing remarks.

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

Speaker: Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Curley. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 20:

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 13
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 15
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 20, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:59*

