



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**1st Session**

**4th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 5**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

**Pages 165 – 222**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment*

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. Monica Ell**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Health*

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

**Samuel Nuqingaq**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

**Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**David Joanasié**  
(South Baffin)

**Hon. George Kuksuk**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Netsilik)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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Innirvik Support Services

*Box 1200*

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0*

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

*Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Tuesday, March 11, 2014****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:30***Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Ms. Ell, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, Members, Ministers, and visitors. Welcome. Going to the *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Item 2. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 015 – 4(1):  
Long-term Service Award  
Recipients – 25 Years**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night, I joined the Premier and colleagues from this House to recognize a number of government employees for their long-term service to

our government. Last night's reception was for employees who have completed more than 20 years of service. Mr. Speaker, these long-term employees were here to see the creation of Nunavut and they continue to contribute to the growth of our territory.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honouring these individual employees who have provided more than 25 years of dedicated service to our government. On behalf of the government, I want to extend congratulations to:

David Akoak (EIA)  
Meeka Alivaktak (Education)  
Christopher Clarke (CGS)  
Claudette Girouard-Qamanirq (Health)  
Mark Gordon (CGS)  
Patty Greenley (CGS)  
Rebecca Kudloo (Education)  
Rosie Kudlualik (Health)  
Scott Marriott (Finance)  
Darlene Nuqingaq (Education)  
Eva Ohokak (Finance)  
Judith Paradis-Pastori (Nunavut Arctic College)  
Michael Shouldice (Nunavut Arctic College)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 016 – 4(1):  
Long-term Service Awards - More  
Than 30 Years of Service**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend the long-term service awards and thank employees who have provided us with more than 30 years of service. Many of those individuals are in the House today, and I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation for serving and committing their time to the public service.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to employees in Iqaluit, we also awarded recipients from Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat. Awards recipients came from a broad spectrum of our workforce. This long-term service of our employees is an example of strong leadership from within our own workforce.

Mr. Speaker, as our government matures and continues to expand our training and mentorship programs, I am confident that we are going to continue seeing positive results and a growing workforce that is committed to growing with us.

Mr Speaker, today, I recognize those with more than 30 years of service:

Tommy Akavak (Environment); Annie Buchan (Health);  
Saa Pitsiulak (Nunavut Arctic College);  
Marie Tiktak (Health);  
Nancy Tupik (Office of the Legislative Assembly); and  
Joe Savikataaq (formally Environment)

Those with more than 35 years of service:

Alice Barrieau (Finance);  
Sam Willy Killiktee (CGS)  
Last, but not least, please help me in commending our very own Clerk of our Legislative Assembly, John Quirke, for serving 40 years to the public service and to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, once again, I extend a great appreciation to our dedicated workforce here in the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member, Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 017 – 4(1): A  
Profile of Homelessness in  
Nunavut**

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Homelessness is a concern for the Department of Family Services, as we aim to address the needs of Nunavummiut who are at risk.

Today, I am announcing the first comprehensive "Profile on Homelessness" being conducted in Nunavut. The first stage of the project has now been completed. Homelessness counts were conducted in all communities, including in person in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. In addition, interviews were conducted with service providers, stakeholders, and Nunavummiut experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, this work involves more than a survey of the numbers. This effort will add the voices of those who experience or have in the past experienced homelessness in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we expect that the profile will significantly improve our understanding of the characteristics of homelessness in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this work will help us identify what information gaps we should be addressing in the subsequent monitoring of homelessness as we move forward on this issue. We expect that with this approach, we will arrive at better policies and build upon a sound plan of action on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services remains a committed participant at the Nunavut Round Table for Poverty Reduction, and we will continue to actively contribute to collaboration towards a homelessness action plan for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 018 – 4(1): NHC  
Progress on \$100 Million  
Economic Action Plan Funding**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Arviat and Whale Cove, as well as Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in March of 2013, the federal government announced a commitment of \$100

million in Economic Action Plan (EAP) funding to help address the very real need for new affordable housing construction in Nunavut.

The \$100 million in funding is a welcome sign that our persistent efforts to demonstrate Nunavut's unique needs to the federal government are being recognized, and I am pleased to update my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly on the progress of construction under this funding.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is ahead of schedule in meeting its construction deadlines and has already awarded contracts for 123 units in Iqaluit, Arviat, Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, and Repulse Bay. Tenders for another 80 units have now been advertised for construction in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Rankin Inlet, and Clyde River, with a closing date of March 20, 2014. Another 10 units in Whale Cove and Igloolik will go out to tender in April of 2014. Construction for the majority of these units is to be completed by summer of 2015, providing 213 new homes for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to updating this House with the progress of the new public housing construction undertaken with the \$100 million in Economic Action Plan funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.



**Minister's Statement 019 – 4(1):  
Development of a Polar Bear  
Management Plan for Nunavut**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation):

Thank you. Good afternoon to everyone. The families are in our minds, both my fellow Pangnirtung residents as well as here in Iqaluit, as another family just lost a loved one. I send love to you all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues that my department is leading efforts to develop a Nunavut polar bear management plan that will build upon the successes of our existing and highly effective polar bear management system.

Members of my department, together with individuals from each regional wildlife organization (RWO) and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), formed a joint working group to oversee the planning and development of this new Polar Bear Management Plan. This new plan is a high priority for my department, as it will address issues of public safety, economic development, and maintaining sustainable polar bear populations. Community consultations started in February and will continue throughout the spring to not only make Nunavummiut aware of this new plan, but to ensure that they play a central role in its development.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, the Polar Bear Management Plan will outline management approaches that meet the needs and preferences of the harvesters in a manner that is consistent with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavut *Wildlife Act*, and that is linked to the objectives of Canada's National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy. (interpretation)

In addition, the new plan will replace the existing polar bear memoranda of understanding between Nunavut's hunters and trappers organizations (HTO) and my department, (interpretation ends) linking our Nunavut plan with a future national management plan for polar bears under the *Species at Risk Act*.

*Uqaqtittijii*, I am confident that we will have a strong, "made in Nunavut" polar bear management plan prepared by early fall of this year that can be presented to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for approval. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 3. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 052 – 4(1):  
Recognizing Constituents for  
Long-term Service**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise today and take the opportunity to recognize a number of my constituents from the Iqaluit-Niaqunngu Riding who were awarded long-term employment service awards last night.

Mr. Speaker, last night's ceremony was, indeed, a celebration of gratitude for and recognition of the contributions made by the following people:

Regilee Adla for 20 years of service;  
Steve Pinkson for 20 years of service;  
Cindy Cowan for 20 years of service;  
Kathy Okpik for 20 years of service;  
David Akoak for 25 years of service;  
and  
Our very own John Quirke, Clerk of the  
Legislative Assembly, for 40 years of  
service.

In closing, I think I speak on behalf of  
all of my colleagues here today in  
offering our congratulations and  
appreciation for a job well done. Thank  
you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Members' Statements. Member for  
Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member's Statement 053 – 4(1):  
Calling for a Review of Medical  
Benefits**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.  
Today I rise happily to mention the long  
service awards handed out throughout  
Nunavut, and I share in their sense of  
accomplishment. I also wish the  
residents of Baker Lake a good  
afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise  
today to begin to address an issue that  
seems to be of concern to all of our  
constituents: the status of our medical  
benefits.

Mr. Speaker, in my first few sitting days  
as a Member of the Fourth Assembly, I  
have noted that issues such as medical  
travel are of concern across many  
constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the medical  
benefits provided to Nunavut residents  
need to be reviewed.

Mr. Speaker, medical travel is an  
ongoing issue, not just in travelling to  
the regional centres or to other  
jurisdictions but also at a local level. For  
example, local transportation for medical  
clients getting to and from the airport is  
a long-standing issue in Baker Lake.  
Local transportation for our relatively  
large elderly population to get to and  
from the health centre is also a concern.

Mr. Speaker, over the first few days of  
this sitting, the issue of medical travel  
escorts has come up and this is also an  
area of concern that has been raised by  
my constituents.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as we begin  
our work during our term as the Fourth  
Assembly of Nunavut, (interpretation  
ends) I encourage the government and  
especially the Minister of Health to take  
every opportunity to review, revise, and  
improve the way medical benefits are  
provided to the residents of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this is the beginning of my  
term of office, and I look forward to  
working with my colleagues and the  
Minister of Health to make sure that  
Nunavut's residents have all the medical  
benefits that they need when they need  
them. (interpretation) Thank you very  
much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Members' Statements. Member for  
Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 054 – 4(1):  
Kivalliq-Manitoba Hydroelectric  
Development**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of making progress in the area of renewable energy co-operation between Nunavut and Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, this was one of the issues that I raised during our recent leadership forum.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that our territory's dependency on fossil fuels is unhealthy, expensive, and unsustainable.

Mr. Speaker, a long-standing goal in the Kivalliq has been to connect our communities to northern Manitoba's power grid.

Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago, in the year 2002, the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba signed a Memorandum of Intent on a Northern Energy Strategy. Under this agreement, the two governments agreed to examine the potential for hydroelectric development between northern Manitoba and the Kivalliq, including the feasibility of an electrical transmission line.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, Manitoba Hydro already has excessive generating capacity and could sell power to us in the same way that utilities in other parts of the country sell electricity. Manitoba Hydro's existing infrastructure in Churchill is the logical starting place to build connections into the Kivalliq.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the two governments signed another memorandum of understanding, which

included a commitment to "sharing best practices and technology" in the area of renewable energy.

Last year's meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table included a representative from Manitoba Hydro, which reflects the importance of this issue to the communities of the Kivalliq.

Mr. Speaker, although we all recognize that the initial costs of development in this area would be significant, the long-term economic and environmental benefits of moving away from the burning of fossil fuels are undeniable.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Energy on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

**Member's Statement 055 – 4(1):  
Recognition of a New Business – I  
Like Cake**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send good afternoon greetings to the residents of Iqaluit-Manirajak. It is for them that I am also rising today to speak to awards banquet recognizing long-term service amongst the public service.

I thank each and every one of them for their long-term commitment to their positions and have their accomplishments recognized, especially by younger public servants, as they have committed to living in Iqaluit and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to share in congratulating an individual who was one of the recipients of the best business awards in Nunavut, and her business is located in my riding, and her company name is “I Like Cake”.

Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2014, the businesswoman, Sadie Vincent-Wolfe, who is actually a constituent of my colleague, Paul Okalik; however, her business is in my riding and it was recognized at that location. She received an award for best new business in Nunavut and she won the first award for new businesses. She created a business that is in a new sector. She has created quite a few baked goods that are drawing in a lot of customers into her business.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Sadie Vincent-Wolfe has proven that with determination and hard work, we can be successful working at what we love. She has turned her creativity and baking skills into a business that she can be proud of. Her family has also provided the necessary support and encouragement to help ensure her success.

Mr. Speaker, Sadie was also highlighted on Pauktuutit’s Inuit Women in Business Network Website as an up-and-coming entrepreneur. I firmly believe that she is a role model for women, youth, and other potential Nunavut entrepreneurs.

Congratulations to Sadie Vincent Wolf and “I like Cake.” I encourage all members to drop by Tumiit Plaza and try out her baked goods and light lunches if they get a chance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members’ Statements. MLA for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member’s Statement 056 – 4(1):  
Reflections on Being Elected**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank my fellow residents in Rankin Inlet North and my constituents in Chesterfield Inlet for supporting me during my campaign, so I start with this gesture of appreciation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there were many people who helped out one way or another, either by encouraging me to put my name forward as a candidate, helping me work with my election platform, supported me and worked with me during the campaign, and went out on Election Day as a voter to have their voice heard.

(interpretation) I wish to thank each and every one who supported me; however, I can’t thank them all singularly. Due to that reason, I send out my appreciation and thanks to all of my constituents in Rankin Inlet North as well as in Chesterfield Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I look forward to their continued support as they encourage me, work with me, and give me guidance as I represent them for the next four years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 057 – 4(1):  
Pangnirtung Turbot Fishery**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my fellow Pangnirtung residents, and I wanted to voice my condolences to those who lost a loved one. Like other communities, the Inuit of Pangnirtung are very supportive of families who lose loved ones, by providing care and support and by just being present during their hardships. I thank all the people of Pangnirtung for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the other reason why I rise today is to speak about the winter turbot fishery that occurs in Pangnirtung. The turbot fishermen started fishing last month, I believe, and ever since the start of the fishery, they have caught about 250,000 lbs. of turbot which has been processed at the fish plant. The tonnage caught employs a lot of fishermen, and I want to acknowledge the fishermen's contribution to the economy of Pangnirtung.

The reasoning is this: the fishery creates a lot of employment opportunities, along with income generation for the people involved. The catch to date, totalling 250,000 lbs., equates to local revenues accruing to the residents of about \$300,000, which is a tangible benefit to the community.

Due to those reasons, I want to start with expressing my appreciation to the people who created the turbot fishery, as this was at the time when sealskins and other fur prices fell through the floor. We can

never forget that when the people of Pangnirtung were faced with hopelessness, especially in generating income for our hunters, the turbot fishery provided a great alternative.

Furthermore, when the fishermen are generating income from this fishery, it impacts both levels of government, as less assistance is required for their citizens. The fishermen are creating good incomes from this fishery. I wanted to express my thanks for the development of this turbot fishery, especially our turbot fishermen who make this fishery a success. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 058 – 4(1):  
Long-term Service Awards**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was with great honour last night that I attended the long-term service award dinner here in Iqaluit. I was a little bit overwhelmed by the amount of leadership from this government that was in that room all together. There were a number of people whom I have worked with and for in the past in previous career paths that I've had.

I want to individualize out a couple of my constituents that were there accepting awards, Okalik Curley, and I am very proud of the following constituents:

David Gunn;  
Judith Paradis Pastori;  
Darlene Nuqingaq; and

Saa Pitseolak, whom I see in the audience here in the Legislative Assembly today.

It was a very nice dinner and I feel very honoured to even have been a part of it. I understand that it's part of our role as members of this great legislature, but I just felt very honoured to be in the presence of a lot of the people there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list for Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 008 – 4(1): Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table**

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) This is a return to an oral question (interpretation ends) asked by Mr. Savikataaq, MLA for Arviat South, No. 8 – 4(1), (interpretation) which he asked on March 6, 2014. (interpretation ends) The subject was the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table. Mr. Savikataaq asked the question:

“One of the issues that were discussed at last year's meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table was the plan to develop a winter road between northern Manitoba and Kivalliq. At that time, there was a commitment made on the part of the

Nunavut and Manitoba ministers to raise this issue with the federal government. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this issue?”

The response is:

The Hudson Bay round table provides an opportunity for Manitoba and Nunavut to meet and discuss the issues that both jurisdictions are facing.

The next meeting of the Hudson Bay regional round table will take place on April 16 to 17, 2014 in Churchill, Manitoba. Delegates from the Government of Nunavut will be in attendance at that time. The meeting will include other provincial and territorial ministers, as well as community mayors, Nunavut beneficiary organizations, and Manitoba regional groups. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize some of my constituents currently in the Gallery and I will start off with recognizing Sen. Dennis Patterson. Welcome to the Gallery.

Furthermore, although this person is always present, I rarely acknowledge this person from my riding, so I wish to recognize her long-term service over 30 years as she was one of the recipients in last night's awards, Nancy Tupik. I now

recognize my constituent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased today to recognize a visitor to the Gallery, my relative who is the child of my niece who is present. She is also has the name of my grandmother. Natasha Nakashuk, welcome to the Gallery.

Further, another niece's husband who was acknowledged last night for long service awards, my niece's husband, Tommy Akavak. He is also present, so welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this person was already recognized earlier, I wanted to acknowledge Sen. Dennis Patterson. As most people are aware, he was an important piece of the team fighting for Nunavut just prior to the establishment of the Nunavut territory. As a matter of fact, he was one of the signatories in the 1990 AIP signing ceremony. I recall that vividly, and I wanted Sen. Dennis Patterson to be acknowledged for his contribution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am extremely pleased to have this opportunity to recognize an individual who is a fellow resident of Repulse Bay, Roland Tungilik. I also thank him for coming to the Gallery when I invited him to visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's Statement, I would like to recognize Saa Pitseolak, who is one of the award recipients from the long-term service awards last night, with her son, Mososie, and Joel. He must have stepped out for a moment.

I would also like to take this time to recognize Sen. Patterson as well. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Patterson some years back and I would like to say that we are now friends.

I would also like to recognize the gentleman sitting next to him, Alan Vaughan, former long-time resident of Yellowknife and now a resident of Alberta. He is here assisting the City of Iqaluit with a project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. I would also like to welcome each individual

who has been welcomed here and recognized.

(interpretation ends) Item 6.  
(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 035 – 4(1): Recreational Facilities for Aivilik

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, having recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and arenas, benefit all Nunavummiut, especially youth.

Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2008, when I was an MLA, I asked a question to the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the need for new recreation facilities. At that time, the minister committed to discussing the issue with her officials and getting back to me on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, it has been six years since I brought this issue up in the House and none of these swimming pools have appeared in communities where they're desperately needed. Can the minister look into this issue and make a determination as to my riding's request for new swimming pool facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can review that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response as that is the very first time that any minister has agreed to my request.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit to consulting with my constituency communities about this matter of swimming pools? Youth and regular residents have clamoured for this facility for quite a while. Can the minister commit to consulting with the hamlet councils in the riding that I represent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his two constituency communities, our department can consult with them on that matter. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

#### Question 036 – 4(1): Status of Swan Lake Bridge

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.



Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency provided the Government of Nunavut with more than \$1.3 million to build and expand community access roads and upgrade or replace community bridges.

Mr. Speaker, one of the projects to receive funding was the installation of a new Swan Lake bridge in the vicinity of the community of Gjoa Haven. Concerns have been brought to my attention that although the new infrastructure has been delivered to the community of Gjoa Haven, it has not yet been installed and made operational. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update me today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that excellent question. The issues he spoke about were just recently provided to me, although I haven't completed my review of the issue.

After our initial discussion on the matter, our department undertook this review. At this time, I can't state what may occur as it hasn't been included as per my understanding or whether plans will be drawn up. I will provide the information the member asked about once I have it sent to my attention. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for (interpretation ends) Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

### **Question 037 – 4(1): Calling for a Review of Medical Benefits**

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my Member's Statement, I referred to the Medical Travel Policy under which medical escorts are approved to accompany medical travel clients, or not, as the case may be. The minister has indicated that the Medical Travel Policy was revised in June of 2013 and that the changes to the policy were based on recommendations made by consultants.

Can the minister provide detail on the consultation process undertaken by those consultants and specifically indicate whether or not they travelled to Nunavut's smaller outlying communities to get residents' views on issues relating to medical travel? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is asking about detailed information related to the process, but I don't have it available at this time. I am aware that many people were surveyed. They also queried the clinical administrators in the communities who provide doctor's appointments and other travel-related work. I can look into the matter and provide further details that the member is asking for. Once I have the

information, I can provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Nunavummiut, especially those in the smaller, outlying communities, have to travel to the (interpretation ends) regional hubs for medical services and sometimes they have to travel further to other centres. It is important that Nunavut's policies are relevant to the people they serve. Can the minister indicate what steps are being taken to ensure that her department's policies, such as the Medical Travel Policy, are directly relevant to the needs and wishes of Nunavut's residents? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was done in June, and a year hasn't even passed since the approval of the policy. There are four line items in the policy that have to be followed for all medical travel patients as well as by staff. We have provided directives outlining the requirement to abide by this policy. At this time, the legislation as well as the corresponding policies are available on a central website in all four official languages and are distributed to all health care centres in Nunavut.

Furthermore, just last week, I spoke about the NWT government having made changes to their system, where a

one-stop hub has been created with one central decision-maker related specifically to the medical escort policy. Our department will review how it is implemented in our sister territory. It will allow us to review our own system to see if we can make improvements. This is an ongoing attempt to improve the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that providing interpreting services for a unilingual medical traveller is one criterion for providing a medical escort. However, I believe that there is a strong argument for also having a medical escort who can provide support and compassion to a medical client who is going through a serious medical issue, even if the client is young and fully bilingual. It seems that in some cases, this is taken into account, but not in other cases.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to reviewing the Medical Travel Policy again, giving full consideration to the needs and wishes of all Nunavummiut, including those from communities that are not regional centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. In speaking about medical travel patients, they are first

dealt with prior to their travel, with paperwork outlining their departure point and destination and prior to their return trip back home. They are looked after from that point onwards.

There is also transportation made available at their destination. Further, if they require interpreters, then an interpreter is tasked to wait for the patient. Perhaps in Ottawa, not all of the drivers are fluent in Inuktitut. However, they have flash cards in Inuktitut and if the patients can't understand, they use a cellphone to call an interpreter to convey messages to one another.

I believe the member is referring to the transportation issues at the patients' home communities from their homes to the airports. If I am correct in that, at this time, I don't think the fares are paid by our department. To use Iqaluit as an example, if I have to attend to a doctor's appointment from my home, I would not require airplane travel. Most likely, I would take a cab to the hospital or ask an acquaintance to drive me there. However, once I am at my destination, that is it.

If a patient reaches their destination in a southern location, a driver would be there to pick the patient up, and that is how things are done. If we were to deliberate on issues related to medical travel patients, there are a lot of issues to look at. Up to date, we have expended \$53.3 million just in fiscal year 2011-12 and it seems clear that these costs will continue to escalate.

Mr. Speaker, the Medical Travel Policy ends on March 31, 2018, and if the members wish to review the policy, then we would require approval from the

cabinet to proceed to make any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

#### **Question 038 – 4(1): Meeting Medical Travel Costs**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I was recently contacted by a constituent who travelled to Winnipeg for medical reasons. Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program as provided to Inuit beneficiaries, my constituent states that he was entitled to just \$35 a day for meals, that is, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this is not enough to cover the cost of one healthy, regular dinner.

Can the minister clearly describe how the amounts allocated for meals for medical travel clients are determined under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the member's question about medical travel patients, perhaps if he could clarify if the patient was staying at the boarding home or if they were in a hotel, and if the member can clarify which situation the patient was in, then I can respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok, please restate your question.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The patient stayed in a hotel, not a boarding home. Thank you.

**Speaker**: The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, with respect to medical patients who travel to attend to medical treatment in Winnipeg, which I believe the member is referring to, they are given a choice whether to be on their own if they don't wish to stay at the boarding home. If they choose a hotel, then different rates apply, such as their meals, and different arrangements are made in those cases. They are usually provided with meal tickets at the hotel at which they are staying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it is the federal government which sets the rates for Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. However, there must be a means by which the actual costs for such expenses as travel, accommodation, and food are taken into consideration under this program. Can the minister explain what role her Department plays in ensuring that any review and adjustment of the allocations under the Non-insured Health Benefits program take into account our actual needs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Health continues to work with the boarding homes to improve recreational activities and other services that clients and escorts enjoy during their stay. We continue to work with the federal government on the First Nations and the Inuit Health branch, who funds the boarding home contract rate that the member was talking about at \$75.07 per person per night, and we continue to have collaboration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Will the Minister of Health commit to raising this issue with her federal counterparts at the earliest opportunity and make every effort to get the daily allowance for meals increased for medical clients who depend on the NIHB benefits for their needs while travelling away from home to receive medical services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask my staff to review the question the member has raised and we will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Question 039 – 4(1): Kivalliq-Manitoba Hydroelectric Development**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions today are for the (interpretation ends) Minister of Energy, Mr. George Kuksuk.

(interpretation ends) In the year 2002, the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba signed a Memorandum of Intent on a Northern Energy Strategy. Under this agreement, the two governments agreed to examine the potential for hydroelectric development between northern Manitoba and the Kivalliq, including the feasibility of an electrical transmission line.

In 2010, the two governments signed another memorandum of understanding, which included a commitment to “sharing best practices and technology” in the area of renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Energy update the House today on what has been accomplished to date in the area of developing power connections between Manitoba and the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Energy, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague from Arviat. I was just recently given the responsibility of the

Department of Energy and I am still in the process of reviewing the files.

All I can say regarding the work on energy and power with the Nunavut government is that we are trying to see how we can reduce carbon-based fuels and we will continue to look for alternatives. We will also look into other jurisdictions and other energy operations to see how we can work together on the matter of energy. We will continue to pursue that.

In regard to your actual question, I don't have the answer with me right now. I will have to get back to you on that matter. (interpretation ends) I will take that as notice. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker:** It has been taken as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Question 040 – 4(1): Status of Decentralization Action Plan**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

As the Premier will recall, the previous government undertook a comprehensive review of decentralization. The final report from that initiative was tabled in the Legislative Assembly a little over two years ago. The government [subsequently] produced a [decentralization] action plan, which was tabled in June of 2012.

Can the Premier update the House on the status of the government's implementation of its [Decentralization] Action Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the plan has been ongoing. I know there were some consultations that took place, but at this time, there is no timeframe pending tabling of the document. I will certainly let the member know once we get to that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous government's [Decentralization] Action Plan indicated that the government would continue to "situate at least 60% of all public service jobs outside of Iqaluit." However, it also indicated that the government will "aim for a better fit between positions and community, including strengths, characteristics [and labour market]." Can the Premier indicate what specific steps his government will take to achieve this goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, within the plan, there are 29 recommendations and with the recommendations that we are working on, I'll certainly let the member know, once the review is done, what action is going to taking place under the 29 recommendations proposed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's [Decentralization] Action Plan also indicated that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs would be collaborating in the preparation of an Inuit labour force analysis to be "used by all departments for understanding the labour market." The action plan indicated that this was to have been completed by March of 2013. Can the Premier indicate when the results of the Inuit labour force analysis will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Once the document is prepared for tabling, I'll certainly table the document at the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

#### **Question 041 – 4(1): Mobile Airport Equipment**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, earlier Mr. Mapsalak said that he received his first "yes" answer, and I would like to receive the same response to my question.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will appreciate, it is essential that all of our territory's airports have the necessary equipment with which to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Concerns have been brought to my attention about the lack of a grader at the Pond Inlet Airport. I think they're called *Maniqqassaijjutaut* in Inuktitut. It is my understanding that a piece of equipment is currently being shared between the airport and the municipality, but that it has been broken and non-functional for some time.

Can the minister clarify whether his department enters into formal agreements with municipalities for the sharing of mobile equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the agreement, I would like him to clarify as to which agreement he is talking about. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's for things like heavy equipment, such as graders. The hamlet and the airport management sometimes share the same heavy equipment. My question is: when they share a piece of

equipment like that, do the Nunavut government or your department, Arctic Airports, and the municipality enter into formal agreements that spell out when and how such equipment will be shared? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member now and I thank him for that question. Different communities have different equipment. In some cases, there is one piece of heavy equipment that is shared. Sometimes the airport takes the equipment and sometimes the local government uses it, so the community and the airport share the equipment.

In regard to formal agreements, I am not sure whether a formal agreement is in place in his community or what is in it. There is a share policy on heavy equipment. If there is any work to be done at the airport, then they have to use the heavy equipment or if the local government needs it, then the hamlet uses it. That is how arrangements are made in some communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although a new blower attachment for the Pond Inlet Airport is scheduled to be acquired in the 2014-15 fiscal year, a new grader for the airport is urgently required. Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly will be considering the government's 2015-16

capital estimates later this year. Can the minister assure me that a new grader for the Pond Inlet Airport will be included in his department's capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, the capital planning process is done for capital equipment, specifically long-term plans for acquisition of capital equipment inside our department. It too will be subject to careful review, both the capital plans for the communities either for road maintenance or airstrip maintenance as they both have different requirements.

In the case of Pond Inlet, I don't have the information or for other communities within Nunavut as the capital plans will be based on needs and replacement limits. This plan will include those types of details to ensure our capital plans are specific to the community's needs, such as this piece of equipment, will be allocated to that community, and this vehicle will be sent to that community.

However, we will be fully prepared to review all the issues related to the capital plans, and Pond Inlet will be included in this capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister

for planning a thorough review. As I said, there is no grader at all in Pond Inlet and it's to get that piece of equipment. You said that you were in the planning stage. If I understand that correctly, because there is no grader in Pond Inlet, can we expect to get one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I want to tell him that all of Nunavut's requests will be reviewed, including those from Pond Inlet. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

#### **Question 042 – 4(1): Human Rights Tribunal**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

In my Member's Statement yesterday, I spoke about the importance of tolerance and respect for the human rights of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important accomplishments of the First Legislative Assembly was the passage of our territory's *Human Rights Act*, which the minister himself introduced. This legislation established a Human Rights Tribunal.



Mr. Speaker, the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Human Rights Tribunal was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March of last year. Can the minister indicate when he will be tabling the tribunal's most recent annual report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I share my colleague's opinion, and I look forward to tabling this report during this session. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2012, a major report titled "Strengthening the Nunavut Human Rights System" was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This report contained a number of recommendations, 18 if I recall correctly, one of which suggested that the government also establish a Human Rights Commission, which would take on responsibility for education and advocacy, and leave responsibility for adjudication with the tribunal. What is the government's position on this idea, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The concern I would have is that we don't want to add time to complaints

that may be filed. We want to it as effective and efficient as possible. We will continue with the current tribunal, which has been doing its job very effectively. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2012 report on the human rights system in Nunavut also identified a number of operational concerns with the current tribunal, and concluded that it would be more, and I quote, "accessible and effective" to Nunavummiut if its primary offices were more centrally located. What is the government's position on this idea, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The current report I will be tabling very shortly deals with that issue. The current location has not affected its operations to date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

#### **Question 043 – 4(1): Status of the Cape Dorset Sewage Lagoon**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister should be aware, construction of a new sewage lagoon in Cape Dorset started seven years ago. However, this much needed new facility has yet to be commissioned and brought into operation.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of Cape Dorset's new sewage lagoon and what issues are preventing it from being completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry; I missed part of the question that he asked. I wonder if he could ask the question again. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Joanasié, please rephrase your question.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I would just like to get an update on Cape Dorset's new sewage lagoon, what the status is on it, and what has prevented it from being completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his question, yes, the sewage lagoon has yet to receive final approval due to a few minor deficiencies with the lagoon and

those are currently being dealt with at this time. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasié, do you have a first supplementary? Go ahead.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 14 of last year, the previous Member for South Baffin brought up this issue up in the House. At that time, the former minister indicated that his "department has conducted a dye test that confirmed a leak in the berm of the new sewage lagoon and that arrangements were being made with a contractor to complete that work that was identified." Can the minister explain what his officials have done to resolve this issue and when can Kinngarmiut expect to have the new sewage lagoon to be operating? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this upcoming summer of 2014, the inspection is set to be undertaken. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my last supplementary, I'm just asking if the minister can indicate: will the department be introducing additional funding through capital carryovers in order to complete the Cape Dorset Sewage Lagoon? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our expectations are that the sewage lagoon the member is referring to in Cape Dorset, including the access road to the lagoon, is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2015. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Question 044 – 4(1): Funding for Community Access Roads**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my first round of questions, I got my first ever approval, and getting positive responses is addictive.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy governs funding for the development of local community access roads. The department's 2013-14 main estimates included \$500,000 in funding for community access roads.

Mr. Speaker, the communities of Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour both have plans to develop access roads to sites which have great potential for

strengthening tourism and economic development.

Can the minister confirm if his department's policy provides for a minimum or maximum funding level for community access road projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague from Repulse Bay. Regarding community access roads, and again, we use different terms in Inuktitut, they are very beneficial to the communities. Usually the projects are carried out by the hamlets, some of which are tendered out to contractors. It is very beneficial for the hunters and different tourism and economic development purposes. It makes it more accessible to everybody in general in the community.

In our department, we are going to go ahead with the funding. It is up to the communities to make requests for funding if they would like to access the community access road monies. The funding level for community access road projects is set at \$500,000 for communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that \$500,000 is set aside for community access roads. My question to the minister, however, was if his

department's policy provides a minimum or maximum funding level for community access roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague. This is for all Nunavut communities and there is no set minimum or maximum ceiling. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That amount is never enough. Access roads are very important to non-decentralized communities. The communities I represent have already prepared their rationale. I know that their respective hamlets are each allocated \$35,000 and rarely beyond that amount.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent increase in fuel prices, along with inflation, those funds are just a bare minimum and insufficient for doing more when you access just small amounts of money. I would like to ask the minister if the \$500,000 could be increased prior to the summer construction season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the

member for the question. I will have it reviewed and see where we can put additional funds. We have to look at all the allocations in general. I will ask my department to look at the level of this funding. That is the only way that I can respond at this point. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

#### **Question 045 – 4(1): Medical Travel for Unilingual Clients**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those less fortunate and less physically capable for whatever reason, those with handicaps of any kind, I had promised to represent them as their MLA and I will continue to advocate on their behalf during my entire term of office.

At this time, I wish to return to the issue of unilingual Inuit who go out on medical travel. I wish to ensure we're on the same page on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer to one of our previous *Hansard* Blues. I know that these haven't been edited. I directed a series of questions about medical patients travelling to hospitals about the kind of assistance they receive. In this copy of the *Hansard*, it shows the questions I asked, and further, I can say that a response wasn't provided. Due to that reason, I wish to further query the Minister of Health to provide a clear response in words that our unilingual Inuit elders can understand.

(interpretation ends) The hon. minister (interpretation) responded that people on medical travel are looked after from the

time they board the plane, throughout their flight until they reach their destination. Thank you.

My previous question which I want to ask again today, Mr. Speaker, is that sometimes a plane doesn't always land at their destination due to poor weather conditions. This scenario is what I want to ask about: if an elder who is unilingual is on medical travel alone without an escort and their flight doesn't land at their destination, it usually means that they overnight somewhere else. Who will look after these passengers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice.

**Speaker:** The minister has taken the question as notice, and I will move on to the next member on my list. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

#### **Question 046 – 4(1): Species-at-Risk Act and Polar Bear Management**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Environment with respect to his Minister's Statement.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Environment on his speech today on the polar bear management plan. It says, "linking our Nunavut plan with a future national management plan for polar bears under the *Species at Risk Act*." I

would like to ask the minister what implications will this have as the *Species at Risk Act* is a federal Act and we, as Nunavummiut, have no control of that Act. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking a question about that matter. Yes, it is clear that our polar bear management system is heavily influenced by global interests, and it is within that context we have to speak about the plans we have put in place.

The polar bear management system in the Arctic is part of the mandate of the Government of Nunavut, and with that system, we manage polar bears within Nunavut. We also have a duty to keep our co-management partners that are keeping an eye on our management system regularly informed. This is a matter of good relations.

We aren't saying that polar bears will be placed as a species at risk. Once the GN polar bear management plan has been reviewed, it will be easier to bridge the old plan with the new plan. The reason is that polar bears are an iconic species and are heavily scrutinized by animal rights groups in southern locales. This has largely been driven by outside forces, not by us. However, the reason why the new PBMP is in place is to clearly demonstrate our ability to manage those species. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister and his staff are doing polar bear management plans and I commend them on that. We do need a made-in-Nunavut management plan for Nunavummiut by Nunavummiut. It has to be acceptable by other parties outside of Nunavut. I understand that. It should be our plan and it should be a plan that the people of Nunavut want and need.

We have seen that polar bears are a big issue, yes, and the people outside of Nunavut want to control it. They want to control the direction of our harvest or the quantity of our harvest. They have means to influence our decisions.

The minister is on the right track with a made-in-Nunavut wildlife management plan. I would just encourage the minister that it has to be a polar bear plan for the people of Nunavut. The bears may have been in Nunavut first, but we're here too and we have to live with them. The plan has to respect the wishes of Nunavummiut that have an abundance of polar bears knocking at their doorsteps. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the goal of this plan is to have a Nunavut-made plan and the government has the discretion to incorporate changes to the polar bear management system in Nunavut.

Furthermore, we are aware of the importance of polar bear management to the outside world and that is why our

polar bear management system has been taken as acceptable. At this time, the PBMP is generally accepted. I, too, personally wish that we weren't the only ones subject to legal dictates. Other governments also are obliged to undertake these types of management systems on the polar bear population.

However, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is currently conducting a review of this polar bear management plan I alluded to. Once their review is complete, we will have a better idea on what else needs to be improved. Once the NWMB arrives at their decision, we can then consider what other actions to take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. We will move on to Item 7. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a request of unanimous consent to return to Item 5 on the paper.

**Speaker**: The member has requested unanimous consent to go back to number 5. Are there any nays? I have none. Proceed, Mr. Hickes.

#### **Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I have publicly recognized in this House, I haven't had the opportunity to formerly recognize in the House my constituency assistant, Jessica Patterson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you and welcome. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 015 – 4(1): Government of Nunavut’s Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements, March 31, 2013**

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut’s Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements, March 31, 2013. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:14 and  
Committee resumed at 15:41*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, members. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut, to the people who are listening to the proceedings on the radio, and to the people who are watching the proceedings on TV. Welcome.

Before we proceed, I would like to ask: what is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the capital main estimates and today, we will consider the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do we agree that we will first deal with capital estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

#### **Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Hon. Minister Sammurtok, Minister of Community and Government Services, if he has any opening comments. You now have the floor to make your opening comments. Mr. Sammurtok

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues. I will be making my opening comments in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have this opportunity today to update all the members on the 2015-19 Five-Year Capital Plan and, in particular, the 2014-15 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

The Department of Community and Government Services has many roles to play in the delivery of capital projects for the government. My staff provides a wide range of services to all departments to assist them in the development of the capital plan. These services range from project development to technical reviews and project management.

In addition to assisting other government departments, CGS is responsible for assessing and securing funding for the long-term needs for our communities. Our efforts have created a strong collaboration between the GN and our communities.

Mr. Chairman, the department continues to use the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory [Committee], or NCIAC, to ensure communities have a role in the development of the departmental capital plan. The committee consists of three mayors from each region elected amongst the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and three senior GN officials. This process ensures that the municipal concerns regarding infrastructure needs and challenges are brought to the forefront of the capital planning process. This collaboration has been effective in providing our communities with the ability to determine their capital priorities.

In addition to the NCIAC process, the recent launch of [www.buildingnunavut.com](http://www.buildingnunavut.com) allows communities to provide an annual update of their integrated community sustainability plans. It is from these community-driven plans that CGS is able to assess the infrastructure needs and priorities across the territory. These community-developed plans ensure the planning process takes into account all environmental, cultural, social, and economic goals. In addition, the ICSP will provide both government departments/agencies and the community itself with a long-term vision for infrastructure development. When communities submit their short-, medium-, and long-term priorities via the website, NCIAC is then able to rank all submitted projects.

To ensure projects are appropriately identified and prioritized for the capital plan, NCIAC utilizes standard ranking criteria. The criteria used to rank high-priority short-term projects include health and safety, mandated program and services, and economic and social benefits.

All new priority projects before you today will undergo a pre-planning phase prior to their introduction onto the GN capital plan. This change to the capital planning process will ensure that the project scope and budget are better defined. This will provide better assurances that projects can be completed on time and on budget.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to my department's five-year capital plan, we are keenly aware that we will be facing many challenges over the next five years to address our aging community



infrastructure. We do our best to administer the limited capital funds to address the needs of our communities. With new funding from federal infrastructure programs, such as the recently announced Building Canada Fund, which will provide \$256 million over the next 10 years, and the extension of the Gas Tax Program, which will provide \$78 million over the next five years, we are confident that we can begin to more effectively meet the needs of our communities.

We recognize that the timeframe for renovations, retrofits, and replacements requested by the communities sometimes exceeds what can be accomplished in our yearly budgets. It is always a difficult balancing act to meet all the urgent needs for each and every community. The department strives to provide the best possible service to the communities with our limited financial resources.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that these brief comments give an understanding of the demands upon my department for capital funding and the challenges associated with prioritizing projects. Our awareness of the need and challenges facing communities continue to direct our path forward in capital planning. The vision of our department's future is one that continues to support the needs of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I have with me today Mr. Roy Green, Deputy Minister, and Bu Lam, Director of Community Infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I now look forward to your questions.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurток. As we proceed and before we ask questions, I would first like to ask if you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Mr. Sammurток, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Tom Sammurток**: Mr. Chairman, yes. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Roy Green, (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister for CGS, and Bu Lam, Director of Community Infrastructure for CGS. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurток. (interpretation ends) Mr. Green and Mr. Lam, welcome to the House. (interpretation) As we proceed, does any member of the Regular Members' Caucus have comments? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its

consideration of the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Members note that the department is proposing to spend \$32,688,000 for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The department's capital budget was \$40,873,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year and \$31,270,000 for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, this department's operations have a significant impact on the success of the Government of Nunavut's overall capital planning process. On May 8, 2013, the Minister of Finance appeared before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014*. In his opening comments, the minister indicated that approximately 145 capital projects and \$130,879,000 in funding were being carried over from 2013-14 to 2014-15. Members continue to have concerns regarding the volume of capital carryovers.

Mr. Chairman, during the Minister of Community and Government Service's recent appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus, he indicated that his department has "successfully rolled out a web tool for Hamlets to update and maintain their Integrated Community Sustainability Plans" and "that Hamlets will have the ability to provide current information to update and prioritize their infrastructure plans regularly." Members were also informed that the department has "taken initiative in implementing the pre-planning phase of the capital planning process, which will establish crucial project information to produce a well-defined scope of work. This will ensure that during the project implementation phase, projects are

positioned to be completed on-time and on-budget." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the department's efforts concerning these important initiatives regarding capital planning for communities throughout the territory.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include \$2.5 million for a Kitikmeot granular project. This project is a continuation of the previously funded Kitikmeot quarry development project. The information provided by the department indicates that this pilot project will be moved to the other regions after its completion. Members look forward to receiving an update on the success of this project and information when it is expanded to other regions.

Members note that the department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include \$288,000 in funding for the Cambridge Bay Water Treatment System. The department's five-year capital plan also indicates that approximately \$302,000 will be allocated in the 2015-16 fiscal year for the Resolute Bay Water System.

The Regular Members' Caucus notes that the *Canada-Wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* was endorsed by a number of jurisdictions in 2009. However, Nunavut and other northern jurisdictions were granted an opportunity to conduct research to determine which factors affect the performance of wastewater facilities in northern conditions. Members note that the department "hired Dalhousie University to conduct long-term studies to better understand the capability of Nunavut's wastewater

facilities and how these systems can be better designed or managed to enhance their treatment effectiveness. The university started this research in 2010 and it will continue for a total of five years, studying five to seven representative systems in Nunavut.” Members urge the department to continue lobbying the federal government for funding to upgrade Nunavut’s wastewater facilities to meet the new federal regulations and look forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department previously indicated that it was “working closely with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators and municipalities to establish daily procedures to assist communities in complying with their water licence requirements. A water monitoring working group has been established to ensure water samples are being taken regularly and water logs are being filed daily.” Members urge stakeholders to work together to ensure municipalities are in compliance with their water licences and look forward to receiving updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department completed a solid waste management study last year which “explored best practices for managing solid waste in the territory. Based on recommendations from the study, modified landfills have been identified as the best practice for the majority of Nunavut communities. These facilities will be fenced and include lined-cells for hazardous waste, bulky metals, land farms and domestic garbage.” In

addition, the department is “working on management and training plans for communities, which will provide training to encourage segregation of waste streams, controlled access and better management of solid waste facilities.”

Members also note that the department recently issued a request for information titled “Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory.” It indicates that the department is “seeking information regarding potential solid waste management solutions for the Territory of Nunavut. The GN and the municipalities are seeking to deliver a sustainable waste management program for Nunavut’s 24 non-tax based communities. The Territory is currently struggling to provide environmental and socially conscientious waste management solutions given that state of the infrastructure, operational issues, and the significant logistical challenges facing northern communities.” Members look forward to ongoing updates on this important issue. This is an issue that members have also noted in our opening comments on the 2014-15 Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include \$3.4 million in annual funding for the City of Iqaluit Contribution Agreement. Information provided to members indicates that the current Government of Nunavut’s block funding contribution agreement with the City of Iqaluit formally expired on March 31, 2012 and that the city requested approximately \$17 million to complete core infrastructure projects, such as

water, sewer, sanitation, quarries, paving, and general operations. The department's five-year capital plan indicates that approximately \$3.4 million will be allocated annually, which started in 2013 and ends in 2018. Information also indicates that the City of Iqaluit has approached the GN for a new capital infrastructure block funding agreement.

Members note that the department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include \$5 million in funding for small capital projects, which includes such items as mobile equipment repairs, community planning studies, block funding, building and equipment upgrades and replacement.

The department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include approximately \$12 million in funding for several bulk fuel storage capacity increase projects. 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, 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.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I couldn't have done that better. (interpretation) Thank you.

We will proceed. Since many of us are new MLAs, let me remind members that we only have two pages to go through. It should be quick. Before we proceed, I want to remind all members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to 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.

As we proceed, do members have any general comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions on the minister's opening comments.

On page 2 of your opening comments, you stated that the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee "consists of three mayors from each region elected amongst the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and three senior GN officials." Can the minister let us know who is on this committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) I will allow that question to be answered. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee members for that group are Jeannie Ehaloak from Cambridge Bay, Joseph (Joe) Aupaluktuq from Baker Lake, and Mary Killiktee from Qikiqtarjuaq; from the Government of Nunavut, Bu Lam, Darren Flynn, and Jamie Matthews. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Thank you for that answer. Mr. Rumbolt, do you have any other general questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I am asking questions on the opening comments is because this will not appear anywhere in the budget, so I am taking the opportunity to ask at this time.

On the same topic with the community infrastructure advisory committee, do they have a term of office or once they are elected to this committee, they are on this until they want to remove themselves, and how often do they meet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The group meets once a year. The NAM executive reviews the committee every year as to who should be on the advisory committee. NAM decides that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) May I remind the people at the witness table, if you are going to be whispering in each other's ears, please mute because I can hear everything you say if you don't. (interpretation) Thank you. Are there any more general questions or comments? Ms. Angnakak. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on page 2 of your opening comments, Mr. Minister, in the second to last paragraph, you have, "In addition to assisting other governments, CGS is responsible for assessing and securing funding for the long-term needs of our communities."

In the ministerial report to the Assembly tabled yesterday by you on the provincial/territorial meeting of ministers responsible for local government, there was a quote in there from the federal government, "as ministers responsible for local government in Canada, we recognize recent federal budget announcements regarding long-term infrastructure funding. The key now is to ensure that funding flows to our provinces and territories in a timely, efficient, and flexible manner to support the needs of our citizens." What changes are being suggested to achieve these goals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is okay with you, (interpretation ends) I would like to defer to my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Community and Government Services does cooperate with the other jurisdictions in terms of lobbying Infrastructure Canada and other federal departments for funding. Basically now, we are in discussions with the other provincial and federal territories to discuss the up-and-coming new Building Canada program.

It has been announced that we will get \$256 million over the next ten years. However, at this point in time, both provincial and territorial governments are lobbying to get an understanding from the federal government how that funding will be allocated over an annual basis. Right now, we don't know if it is front-end loaded or back-end loaded because we don't have those details and we also don't know if the federal approval process from the previous Building Canada Fund will change under this new current program.

There are still quite a bit of details that both provinces and the territories are negotiating collaboratively with the federal government. We do know that the new program is 75 percent cost shared by the federal government and 25 percent cost shared by the territorial government.

Those are the only details that we have at this point in time. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that answer. Can you tell me, Minister Sammurток, what kind of

suggestions you made at the table to ensure that funding flows to our territory in a timely, efficient, and flexible manner to support the needs of our citizens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, (interpretation) with your permission, I will defer it to (interpretation ends) my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS did participate at the federal/provincial/territorial meeting in September of 2013, where the federal minister, at that time, announced the details of the gas tax agreement, but we haven't had any participation at the federal level for the new Building Canada program. We suspect that the next face-to-face meeting that we will have with the federal government will probably be in July in PEI.

What we do know is that the gas tax administration has now been approved both levels of government and we're into the process of finalizing that agreement. We should see funding from the gas tax flow into the territory early in the fiscal year 2014, but I can't say at this time. We will continue to lobby with the federal government to get the details on the Building Canada program.

We will try to take whatever encouragement we can to get the funds flowing in 2014, but I can't give a

definite date when we will be in a position to finalize the Building Canada agreement for the new program because there are certainly quite a few details that need to be addressed before we're ready to bring anything forward for consideration by the cabinet. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are some of the challenges that we faced with accessing or having the funds flow in an expedient manner, as he just said, from our federal counterparts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like him to respond again. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that there are two major challenges right now that the Government of Nunavut is concerned about regarding the new Building Canada program. In the previous program, the fund was cash-flowed out the front, so we basically got 50 percent of our annual funding at the beginning of the year and then we got the remaining funding when we submitted our annual capital expenditures approach.

This time around, the federal government is looking at changing it from a claims-based approach, so it means that the GN would have to fund the projects and then complete the claim

submissions back to the federal government for reimbursement. This could certainly be a very administrative approach and a very detailed review would be required. So we're trying to convince the government to go back to the previous format because it was very seamless and it allowed us to be able to get the funds in an efficient manner and the reporting requirements were minimal.

The other concern that we do have is the fact that we could provide an annual capital plan before, with a list of projects that we could bring forward to the Legislative Assembly to get approval, and if there were any budget shortfalls between those projects, you could realign your budget within those capital plans. The federal government is asking now that we go forward by project base, so it means that until we have all of our analyses done, we would have to submit cost estimates. That's alarming for us because until we get to the final design stages and with the logistics in the north and with limited contractors, sometimes it's challenging for us to be able to commit a firm project cost to the federal government.

Those are some of the challenges that we're working with our provincial and federal colleagues to work with the federal government to see if they're open to some changes to what they're proposing in the new Building Canada program. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like the federal minister is taking a step backwards in creating a

timely, efficient, and flexible manner of providing the funding.

I'll save the rest of my questions for line by line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Moving on. Mr. Mikkungwak, general comments/questions.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The first question I would like to ask is in regard to the minister's opening statements on page 3. (interpretation ends) At the very bottom of the paragraph on page 3, the minister stated, "To ensure projects are appropriately identified and prioritized for the capital plan, NCIAC utilizes standard ranking criteria. The criteria used to rank high-priority short-term projects include health and safety, mandated programs and services, and economical and social benefits." Are these criteria considered for all capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Sammurток. (interpretation) Yes, he said. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response provided on this matter and it's good to hear as well. (interpretation ends) During the previous government, MLAs asked that a report on [water] quality in Nunavut

communities be prepared and tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Have you discussed this issue with your departmental officials? If not, will you commit to ensuring a report on water quality of all Nunavut communities is prepared and tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Before we proceed, please be cognizant of where we are in questioning. Be careful because that's very close to line items. Please be reminded that we will allow you to ask general questions if you feel it is not in the books. I will allow Minister Sammurток to reply. Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): To answer his question, yes, we are in the process of putting the information together at this time. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurток. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying my question. If I'm out of order, you will let me know.

In regard to the Hamlet of Baker Lake, they identified projects for the capital plan. They had priorities identified and the first priority was the utilidor, but I don't see anything on that here. (interpretation ends) Can the minister take this into consideration? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.



**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I responded to that question. My staff will be meeting with the Hamlet of Baker Lake again. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that answer from the minister. Will the minister commit to doing this, and how, specifically, would it be funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) With your permission, I would like to defer that to my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Thank you. You have my permission. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming that the member is referring to the old utilidor system in Baker Lake. We are committed to doing a feasibility analysis just to see what will be involved. If we were to convert from a trucking system into a utilidor system, we do know from previous feasibility studies that a conversion from a trucking system to a utilidor system is a very costly approach for the government. Once we do the feasibility study, we will have some idea of what the costs would be to convert and a decision would have to be made on how this could be funded within the infrastructure program.

At this point, I don't know how much it would cost, but based on some of the other communities that we did an analysis, we're talking probably close to \$100 million to convert from one water system to another. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mine is just a clarification on page 3 of your opening comments. You said that "the recent launch of [www.buildingnunavut.com](http://www.buildingnunavut.com) website allows communities to provide an annual update of their integrated community sustainability plans." Does that mean that if a community puts their wants and needs on that website, they will get it? Obviously, they're putting it there in order to sustain their community. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll defer the response to my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the community sustainability plans are logged on that website, as the member indicated, and it's updated annually by the councils themselves. Any of the priorities are brought forward for consideration in the GN and federal infrastructure capital planning process.

Basically, it's the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee that takes all the priorities that have been

identified by the municipalities. They use those priority lists to rank and prioritize projects in the capital planning process. It is all based on the standard ranking criteria, based on health and safety, programs and services, and economics. It's a decision that is a part of the process that is NCIAC's role.

We see NCIAC as the device for the municipalities. Through that committee, they have an active role in terms of what projects get approved in the various infrastructure plans. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, this is a wish list. It's not a sustainability plan. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This is a planning tool. I'll just leave it at that for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. (interpretation) General questions. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the top of page 4, it states, (interpretation ends) "All new priority projects before you today will undergo a pre-planning phase prior to their introduction onto the GN capital plan. This change to the capital planning process will ensure that the project scope and budget are better defined." I

understand that this is a new process that has been implemented last fiscal year, 2013-14. That's my first question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Mr. Chairman, yes. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** So according to the pre-plans that are done, it says here that "This will provide better assurances that projects can be completed on time and on budget." Do I understand this as projects from now on...? Is there a measuring tool of how well this pre-plan has been used at the end of each project to say, "It was on time and on budget."? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Joanasie, the issue you raised is a standalone item pertaining to the pre-planning studies you mentioned. It is a standalone item and once we have reach that particular section, I will allow you to ask questions on this issue.

General comments/questions. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Chairman. I neglected to ask one of the questions that I had thought of earlier. Mr. Rumbolt kind of reminded me.

I would just like to ask this question: is the use of the Nunavut community infrastructure advisory on the radar?

In February of 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment announced that a number of jurisdictions had endorsed the *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* and were ready to begin implementation. In that strategy, one of the considerations for the Far North is that a viable means to improve human and environmental health protection needs to be carefully considered. Therefore, a window of up to five years is provided to undertake research into factors that affect performance of wastewater facilities in northern conditions.

We have just passed this five-year limit. Can you update me on the status of any of the strategies that have come out of that study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I will defer the question to Mr. Bu Lam.

**Chairman**: Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We thank the member for the question. The member is correct in saying that the five-year window for research has recently come up. In discussion with Environment Canada as well as other jurisdictions around the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment table, it was agreed that Nunavut is currently doing a very good job of collecting that information. Nunavut isn't quite done collecting the information to put together a very good

recommendation for wastewater regulations at this point.

The CCME jurisdictions and the group, as well as Environment Canada, has agreed to extend the research window until Nunavut is able to complete our research, at which time Nunavut will be recommending northern proponent standards for incorporation into the CCME strategy. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Lam. (interpretation) At this time, I have no more names on my list. We will go to page D-3. I will go through these pages and, if you have any question on this line item, raise your hands. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning. Total Capital Expenditures. \$20,588,000. Mr. Hickes.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In the grants and contributions, there is \$3.4 million allocated to the City of Iqaluit under a contribution agreement. Are there any conditions or parameters of that spending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you. With your permission, I would like my deputy minister to respond, please.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services

and the City of Iqaluit entered into a contribution agreement for the annual block funding for the funding for the city their municipal infrastructure and their terms and conditions and reporting conditions in that contribution agreement that the city must meet before we would allocate the funding to the city. We do get the annual audited reports and updates on how those funds are distributed to the terms and conditions of that contribution agreement. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation) Who was asking the question? Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I am going to switch gears and just ask a question on the pre-planning study. There are approximately 20 projects that are being allocated to some of the pre-planning potential projects for ongoing funding.

I would like to discuss the pre-planning study on the *École des Trois Soleil*, the French school here in Iqaluit. A number of facility needs that are lacking have been listed and I recognize all of them.

One of the concerns that I have is with the national focus on child obesity. I'm a little concerned that there's no recreational space or gymnasium included in that study. Is there a specific reason why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer this question (interpretation ends) to my deputy minister. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This request has been brought forward as part of the projects for the Department of Education. I think the list that was distributed at the meeting yesterday was incorrect, so I do have a revised list that I will circulate. This project has definitely been included as part of the allocation for the planning initiative, as part of the \$2 million planning allocation funding. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the recreation component of that study been included in the scope? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, if I may, I would like to pass it on to Mr. Green.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project is included in the \$2 million allocation for a planning study so that we could use these funds to start the initial planning phase, which would involve working with client departments to get an understanding of their program requirements. We will also take a look at the most cost-effective approach to addressing this project. So we're only in the initial planning phase where we would require a detailed gathering of

information to determine the estimated cost and exactly how this would fit in with their programs and services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thanks for that answer, Mr. Green. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully appreciate the concept of doing the pre-planning studies for ongoing capital projects, and I'm very optimistic that it's going to be successful. The more information that is gathered at the initial stages of any project the better.

Would I best direct my question on the recreation component of that study to the Minister of Education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): He said yes. Moving on. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned in my opening comments, in May of last year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$130.8 million in capital carryovers for approximately 145 projects from the previous fiscal year. This is yet another increase in the number of capital carryovers. I am just wondering what progress has been made by your department in completing the backlog of capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, (interpretation ends) I would like to defer the question to my deputy minister. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a really good question. The government has been dealing with a large number of carryovers for the past number of years. To some respect, the increase over the last four or five years has been partly due to the Building Canada Fund, where the projects were front-end loaded. We would get the 75 percent of the total costs of the projects from the federal government up front. Basically, it takes about five years to deliver most of our major capital projects. So that was one of the contributing factors.

The other contributing factor was also because of the scope of work. The projects that were introduced within the capital planning processes were not well-defined, which meant that after they were introduced in the capital plan, there was a fair amount of work. The scope increased because the proper analysis weren't done. All those attributed to delays in delivering capital projects on time and on budget.

We're confident with the new planning initiative. Before we introduce it, we're gathering the appropriate information. We would better able to define the scope of work and the critical cost estimates before they're introduced in the GN five-year capital plan. We believe that over

time, this would be instrumental in reducing the capital carryovers going forward.

From discussions with the GNWT, they have implemented this similar concept and they have also indicated to us that there was a significant reduction in capital carryovers under their new capital planning process. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Before we continue, may I remind all members that if you're working with any electronic devices, so if you have any electronics with you, cellphones or otherwise, turn them off. Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you for your answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: what cost-cutting efforts has CGS done to make sure that projects are done in the most efficient way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I prefer to defer that question to my deputy minister. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Deputy Minister Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In an effort to come up with options to find ways that we can reduce the cost of construction of some of our major capital projects, one of new concepts that we're looking at introducing this new fiscal year is a concept called value management. Basically what this concept allows us to do is sit down with client departments to look at ways that

we can reduce the square-metre costs for some of our buildings and, basically, might look at the footprint of the building so that we can find other options to change the footprint without having an impact on the programs and services that are delivered under those new buildings. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, deputy minister. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as a follow-up to that question, sometimes I wonder why CGS doesn't use the same architectural plans for similar projects, such as health centres or schools, as an example. It seems to me that there's always a new tender going out every time you do a health centre for plans, and I'm just wondering why that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer that question to my official with your permission, (interpretation ends) to my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Deputy Minister Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at the repeat design option to see if this would help reduce the cost of new buildings and infrastructure. We have actually taken a couple of examples now where we use the repeat design for a couple of fire halls. We're also looking at some opportunities. We're certainly looking at some of the education and some of the

health facilities to see if there's an opportunity to use repeat designs to cut down on the architectural and engineering costs in the development of designs.

In addition to your earlier question, we're also looking at trying to get our tender documents out to tender earlier in the calendar year to allow general contractors more time to prepare their tender bids for new construction contracts. The later we push them to the sealift, the higher the risk that we place on the contractors when they're trying to put all of their materials together for sealift. That's another initiative that we're looking at as well, if we can get the tender documents out earlier in the year like January or February as opposed to March or April. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Just to go onto something else, the department's proposed 2014-15 capital estimates include a budget of \$2,867,000 for funding for building and equipment upgrades and replacement, and that's under the small capital projects budget. However, the substantiation sheet does not indicate which projects would be allocated under this funding. Can you provide a detailed breakdown of how this funding will be spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your

permission, Bu Lam can respond to the question. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We thank the member for her question. Yes, the member is correct that we have allocated approximately \$2,867,000 in our small capital budget for building and equipment upgrades and replacement. These projects would include things such as facility renovations and upgrades.

There are oftentimes during the year where facility components could potentially break down, for instance, if a generator for a water station were to blow. It's very difficult to predict these specific instances, which is why we leave it fairly general for our small capital, but we do try our best to address any emergent issues in all 24 municipalities, which is why the allocation is set the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Lam. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your answer. It kind of leads me into the next one when we're talking about water. Over the last few years, a lot of communities have had trouble in regard to being not compliant with their water use licences, including Iqaluit. What measures is CGS [taking] to work with hamlets and our city to address this problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends)  
Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, we are working on developing work plans and compliance plans for five municipalities that are not in compliance with their water licence. We have hired a consultant to help us to work with the municipalities to help them to address the non-compliance issues with their water licences. Once we develop a proper work plan and training support to the municipalities, we will roll that out to all municipalities across the territory.

At this point in time, with regard to the City of Iqaluit, we work with compliance plans with the city through their block funding agreement with Community and Government Services.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Just in line with talking about water and waste and all that, what is CGS doing to assist hamlets and our City of Iqaluit in addressing the growing amounts of plastics, batteries, and other toxic waste in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends)  
Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Deputy Minister, Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get the question because I got it in Inuktitut through the translation.

**Chairman**: Mr. Green, are you requesting that the question be repeated? Is that your request? Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my request.

**Chairman**: Your request is just about to be granted. Ms. Angnakak.

>> *Laughter*

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: what is CGS doing to assist hamlets and our City of Iqaluit in addressing the growing amounts of plastic, batteries, and other toxic waste in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister, you have deferred this to Mr. Green. I will go ahead and ask him directly. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, we are in the process of developing a waste management operations strategy in terms of looking at ways that we can divert some wastes from our landfill sites. We are looking at some recycling options. Actually, we have undertaken a pilot project in Cambridge Bay where we have been taking recyclable plastic,



aluminium cans, and some other materials out of the landfill site. We're also looking at burn options for materials that don't pose any risk to the environment, such as cardboard, paper, and wood.

What we're trying to do is to come up with a strategy to help municipalities with best practice and managing those solid waste programs so that we can divert as much waste out of those landfill sites. Not only with that, it will reduce the issue we have of open burning within our municipalities, but at the same time, allow us to extend the useful lifecycle of the solid waste sites. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you for that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering how much time you spent with our City of Iqaluit to discuss the growing mountain of garbage that we have here. What are the plans in the near future to address that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll defer that to Mr. Green. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS officials, including myself, meet with the City of Iqaluit on a quarterly basis with the mayor, CEO, and some of

the staff. We do have ongoing discussions regarding the solid waste site here in Iqaluit.

The City of Iqaluit gets approximately 2.5 percent of the annual gas tax allocation for water and waste management. I do know that they are in the process of looking at design and development to address their solid waste site, and they're looking at some technology that they can use to implement a new solid waste site.

There are ongoing discussions with the city on this issue. The city certainly does have a consultant hired that is working towards them to try to come up with the design and location for the long-term solutions to the waste management practices and programs here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your answer too, Mr. Green. Switching gears, what is the long-term plan for the old residence here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I'll defer the response to my deputy minister. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green, go ahead.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We're in discussion with Nunavut Arctic

College to take a look at what are the long-term plans for Nunavut Arctic College. Right now, we're in the preliminary stages, so I get to see what our options are in terms of with the existing programs that are in that building or whether they could be best suited in another program.

We know that the building is nearing its useful life while it's structurally sound, but the cost to renovate that building would cost the GN, whether we were to convert it to office space or some other program need, we're looking at it probably costing about \$70 million.

We're really looking at options as how we deal with this facility going forward. Once we do have more information, we certainly wouldn't have any issue providing you with an update on which direction we would like to go with that particular facility. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak, maybe that question would be better suited for the Minister of Education to see what their answer is. I think that's it for you, Ms. Angnakak. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question with respect to pre-planning studies that they will be doing on capital projects. (interpretation ends) Do I understand that these pre-planning studies for each project that are built from now on, we can say that we saved this amount of money based on the pre-planning study? Is that correct? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Minister Sammurtoq.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtoq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Green to answer that question.

**Chairman**: Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We believe that with the pre-planning phase, if we develop the proper scope of work and we look at the critical cost estimates, what we believe is that we would be in a better position to deliver those projects on time and on cost. I think that what we're saying is that we would have to understand the scope of work before introducing it into the capital plan, thus it would give us an opportunity then to be able to at least deliver those projects on time and on budget. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. I noted that a couple of projects in the pre-planning studies are in two of my communities and these are much needed infrastructure. Well, I wanted to also find out... There's a list of 20 projects here before us in the pre-planning study. As a result, all 20 projects receiving funding will be determined if they are viable projects that should move ahead. Can you explain how projects will be considered unviable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Sammurtoq.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtoq** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Green has that information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole idea of the pre-planning study is not necessarily saying that they won't be feasible. What we're looking at with the planning study is to take a look at what the problem is with delivering a particular program within a department and what types of infrastructure that we need to be able to deliver those. So what the pre-planning study would do is identify whether we need to do an expansion, retrofit, or we need to do a new building, or if there are some other options. Basically the whole idea is to come forward in the capital planning process with the most cost-effective approach to address the problem with programs and services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, these studies will be conducted by the department. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Pardon me. I'll hand it back to Mr. Green. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The client departments certainly do take the lead and identify what their infrastructure requirements are. Through the pre-planning study, CGS would work with the client department to work with them on their needs analysis and their

functional and operational review of their programs. So it's going to be a collaborative effort between the client departments and CGS to develop the planning phase. In some situations, we may engage the services of a consultant in order to go into a geotechnical site assessment as part of the planning initiative. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation) Moving on. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My question goes with capital planning. During the previous government, MLAs had raised concerns in the House with respect to Nunavut municipalities not complying with their water use licences.

During last year's appearance before the Committee of the Whole on its review of the 2013-14 capital estimates, your predecessor indicated that your department was continuing, with the cooperation and assistance of Dalhousie University, to conduct a science and research component of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's document *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent*. What is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Bu Lam answer that question if it's okay with you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The current research that's being conducted by Dalhousie University under the mandate of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's municipal wastewater effluent strategy is baseline information gathering. We're trying to establish how effective the current technology that we're using for wastewater treatment in the communities is operating, and whether or not we can meet the more rigorous and stringent standards that are being proposed by Environment Canada for the nation.

Currently, for our water licences, the regulations are established by the Nunavut Water Board. Under the new federal regulations, these standards would be far more stringent. At this point in time, the Dalhousie research information gathering is helping to establish an understanding of how well our systems can treat effluent. That research will be used to help inform Environment Canada on the appropriate regulations for Nunavut as well as the other northern territories. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. (interpretation ends) My additional question to this is: how many communities in Nunavut are being studied for wastewater effluent or how many communities in Nunavut are taken into consideration for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again I'll defer it to Mr. Bu Lam.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, Dalhousie University is studying six communities in Nunavut. We chose six communities to have a representation of different types of technologies as well as different climates and different regions. The information that's being gathered by Dalhousie University will benefit all communities because it will help us define what appropriate standards for effluent regulation are going to be. That's going to be applicable right across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My follow-up question is: can we be privy to information as to which communities are receiving the municipal wastewater effluent study? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would be happy to share that information. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In reference to this, once the studies are done, will this impact the following year's capital planning and future planning for capital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Green will be able to provide a response to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's too early at this point in the research that Dalhousie is doing to determine whether new infrastructure will be required for wastewater treatment. It depends on the acceptable standards that Environment Canada places for the north.

Through the Dalhousie study, if the existing water treatment system meets an acceptable standard, which means that there's no risk to the environment or human health, then there's quite a possibility that there would be very little impact in Nunavut, but it's all going to come down to, once we get the baseline data and then the research is done, if they're satisfied with the way that the existing systems are treating our waste. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the

study, after the results have been determined and in remembering the minister's opening remarks, "To ensure projects are appropriately identified and prioritized for the capital plan, NCIAC utilizes standard ranking criteria," will this research impact the standard ranking criteria that the department currently is using? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) He said, "No." Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you very much. So if I understand the minister correctly, he has indicated that NCIAC's utilizing standard ranking criteria will not be affected. With the Dalhousie University research study, what is the purpose and how long is this research study going to continue in the capital planning? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) For a proper response to that, I'll defer it to Bu Lam. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again we thank the member for his question. In regard to the standards and criteria that the NCIAC committee uses

to rank and prioritize projects, the outcome of the Dalhousie research will not affect the standards and criteria. Those criteria will remain intact.

In regard to the question from the member about how long the research will continue on, the initial contract was issued to Dalhousie University in 2010. The contract was for five years. We are currently entering into our last year to collect that information and that information will be compiled over the course of this year and a report should be available in 2015. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the official for answering that question. My question, in reference to the municipal wastewater effluent, is Baker Lake also in this research study, considering the fact that it's the only inland community in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. He said, "No." Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I completely understand this issue, as in recent years, Baker Lake residents have expressed many concerns about this issue, and upon completion of this latest study, I want to know if another study will be undertaken? That is what I would like

clarified is whether or not any research will be conducted when this current study is completed. Will any studies be initiated in the immediate future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll defer it to Mr. Bu Lam, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were six communities that were captured originally under the scope of the Dalhousie research. Those communities are Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Grise Fiord, and Coral Harbour. Baker Lake was not one of the six communities that were captured.

The reason why we chose these six communities is because communities have different types of technologies that are treating wastewater. It gives us an opportunity to look at the effectiveness of all the different types of technologies that are employed in Nunavut.

The communities were also chosen because they span a good geographic region within Nunavut as well, which allows us to take a look at the effects of temperature, terrain, climate, the amount of sun exposure each year; a whole bunch of different factors.

Now, again, because the communities aren't captured in this specific research doesn't mean that they won't benefit

from the results. This gives us a good indication of what factors are going to affect the wastewater treatment, which we can then use to apply to all communities in Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you very much and thank you for the communities that have been identified for the research study. I make my case as a resident of Baker Lake and for my constituents of Baker Lake, seeing that in the last three or four years, we have seen forced growth with the mining industry and at the same time, with the amount of wastewater effluent that could have been taken into consideration. Forced growth and the amount of wastewater effluent should be seriously taken into consideration, especially when a mine has opened in a community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I did not hear a question. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you. With the information that I have just recently provided with the forced growth and influx of people within my community from the mining industry and with all the exploration companies, will that be taken into consideration if they will continue for a research study, being the only inland community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I will let your question be responded to. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will defer it to Mr. Bu Lam for an answer. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for his question. When we look at the pressures on the existing infrastructure from every community, we look at things like economic development, population growth, a whole range of factors. What we do when we go in and identify problems in each of the communities is we do separate studies specific to those communities.

Baker Lake isn't captured as part of this Dalhousie research, but if there are additional problems that are identified with particular infrastructure, we will do community-specific studies to ensure we properly identify what the problem is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Lam. (interpretation) Moving on. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on a granular project. There is a \$2.5 million slated for the Kitikmeot and it also states that once that is done, the two other regions are going to benefit from the pilot project. I'm just wondering what the minister has in plan for the Kivalliq and specifically for Arviat for granular projects. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we discussed this matter in the past, but I can tell the member that the granular project will start this summer in Arviat and all the heavy equipment will be moved to that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for a very positive and quick response. On another subject, I don't see it in the capital plan. I'll just ask if there is any plan for it. As the minister is well aware, our dump in Arviat is pretty near at capacity now and it cannot be expanded due to its location because it's on the flight path of the runway. The hamlet there has been lobbying the government to have an incinerator as part of the whole solid waste management plan. If the minister can tell me if there are any plans to put that in budget soon because I don't see it there now. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order for it to be responded to correctly, I'll defer this question to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had some funds approved in the previous gas tax for a plan and design for a new solid waste site in Arviat. It has been a number of years that we have been trying to find the appropriate site for the new solid waste site.

During the past summer, as a first approach to looking at the type of solution to the solid waste site in Arviat, we did a solid waste audit. That really tells us the types of domestic waste that are being deposited into landfill sites, and what are the potential solutions in terms of technologies that exist that can be used to either help reduce the amount of waste that's being deposited into the landfill site.

Once we finalize the analysis of the audit with solid waste, we will determine the type of facility that will be required, but to be able to fund this, it would have to be something that we would have to consider in the new gas tax program or probably the new Building Canada Fund. At this point in time, it's too early to determine what costs will be required to replace the landfill site. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation) I still have names on my list. Before we proceed, we will take a five-minute break. I have to take a short break, so we will be back here in five minutes.

*>> Committee recessed at 17:18 and resumed at 17:26*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. It's great to see you back. At this time, I'm just going to proceed to questions. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: I appreciate the Chair's indulgence to let me revisit the questions. Mr. Green mentioned earlier gas tax funds and allocation to communities. How are these funds identified? How are these amounts identified, and what is Iqaluit's allocation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes.  
Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like  
to defer the question to Mr. Green.  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Under the annual gas tax contribution  
that we get from the federal government,  
2.5 percent of the annual allocation goes  
to the City of Iqaluit for their water and  
waste management programs, and the  
remaining annual funding that we  
receive from the gas tax, we get a list of  
projects from the municipalities. The  
NCIAC committee then takes those lists  
of community water and waste  
management infrastructure needs, and  
then they're ranked and prioritized by  
this committee in terms of allocating the  
funding for the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Thanks for that answer. Is that the same  
criteria used for the Building Canada  
Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon.  
Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr.  
Green can respond to the question.  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
The standard ranking criteria that have  
been approved by the GN is used to  
ranking part of those gas tax projects.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
During your answer to my colleague  
from Baker Lake, it was mentioned that  
the effluent waste information would not  
be material in ranking or rating, yet the  
GN capital planning process lists 40  
percent of the criteria as health and  
safety. Can the minister clarify? Thank  
you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes.  
Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. I'll defer it to Mr. Green.  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
The standard ranking criteria the GN  
uses as a tool is used to rank and  
prioritize projects based on the criteria.  
Basically the outcome of the Dalhousie  
study... . For example, if the outcome  
indicates that there's risk to human  
health and to the environment, then this  
would be considered on the health and  
safety side of the GN's standard ranking  
criteria. If the outcome of the Dalhousie  
study indicates that it's lower risk to  
human health and the environment, then  
likely we wouldn't have to do anything,  
so it wouldn't be an impact and it  
wouldn't be brought forward for  
consideration in the various  
infrastructure plans. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. I believe you're done, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back to one thing that I forgot to ask. \$7 million is budgeted for the water system upgrades for the community of Kugluktuk in the 2011-12 capital estimates. The substantiation sheet for the project indicated that in May of 2010, FMB approved to temporarily reduce the Kugluktuk Water Supply System budget by \$6.5 million to assist with the funding shortfall of the Nunavut Housing Trust.

I am just wondering: what is the status on the Kugluktuk Water Treatment System today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer that properly, I'll defer it to Mr. Bu Lam. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. In regard to the Kugluktuk Water Treatment Facility, the current status is that we are currently finishing up design and we're hoping to move forward with construction in 2014 this summer.

The reason why the project dates back to the date that the member had originally mentioned is because we have been dealing with a turbidity issue in the water supply there that has made it very

difficult to come up with a system that can handle that type of water. Over the last five or six years, we have been looking at several different technology options.

About two years ago, we isolated a technology that we think is very successful for treating the water in Kugluktuk. We have used a pilot project over the last two years to verify that information. That pilot did bring back some positive results, which is what we're moving forward with in the design and construction this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lam. (interpretation) General questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions regarding the sewage lagoon project for Sanikiluaq.

The sewage lagoon project was supposed to start in 2012 and was put off due to geotechnical problems or equipment failure. As of five or six weeks ago, I was informed that the project was on schedule and would go ahead this summer. In the last couple of days, I have been hearing that maybe it's not going to go ahead.

I am wondering if the minister can give us an update today on the status on the sewage lagoon project for Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) I will defer it to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We got the results back from the geo-tech that was done during the summer of 2013 just a few weeks ago. Based on the outcome of that geo-tech assessment, the current location is high risk to failure if we were to build a sewage lagoon on that site.

We've had some discussions with the mayor and council regarding the existing site that was proposed. Council is in agreement that the best approach would be to identify a new site so that we can construct the new sewage treatment plant. So this is where we're really back at the planning and discussions with the municipality to identify a suitable site other than the one that was previously identified. Unfortunately, that's probably going to delay the project for about at least a year or longer. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for their update. On a different issue, it is no secret that there is an urgent need for office space in my community for GN workers. I have been bringing this to the attention of the GN for the past several years.

Bringing it to your attention over several years, you know there is an issue and there isn't any office space available. What is your department doing to obtain office space in the community of Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I will defer the response to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did issue an RFP a couple of years ago for office space in the community of Sanikiluaq, but we didn't get any response to the RFP. There were a couple of buildings within the community that we investigated to see if they were suitable for office space, but once we talked to the landlords and looked at the buildings ourselves, they were not desirable for an office space leasing.

Given the fact that we have an office space issue right across the territory right now, we have issued an office space needs assessment. Basically, we have consultants that will be visiting every community across the territory to tell us the condition of shortfalls for office space and we can use this information to determine what options are available for us to address this issue. It is an ongoing issue and at this point in time, there are no easy solutions to it.

Once we get the needs assessment, we will soon be looking at developing a strategy of how we can address office space needs across the territory in the intermediate and long term. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this consultant doing a feasibility or a study on office space requirements across the territory, when is this expected to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Green will be able to respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract has been awarded. The consultants have started to do their preliminary analysis. We suspect we will have the results within six months. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department already knows through the RFP that there is no office space available in our community. Over the past three years, I have been telling you the same story. Now you want a consultant to work for six months to tell you the same story again. Why are we waiting for a consultant's report for my community when we already know that there is a lack of office space in our community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer the question to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right. We are aware that there are office space issues within Sanikiluaq. We wanted to get a general idea of what the office conditions were across the territory. There are no easy solutions to some of those problems. You know, we are looking at options that maybe when we are building hamlet offices within those [communities], there will be an opportunity for us to consolidate some of the outreach programs that we undertake in those communities.

We're really looking at using those needs analyses to take a look at some of the existing and new infrastructure and how we can do some improvements to those facilities to accommodate the office space requirements within those communities. We're not really gaining much in the way back from the private sector in terms of expressing a desire to provide office space in some of the smaller communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, there was some interest from the private sector that may have been willing to build an office complex for our community, but it seems like the Government of Nunavut was not willing to enter into lease agreements with this private company. I'm just wondering why you wouldn't use that option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again I defer it to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of the specifics of the private sector in the community that offered to lease space for the departments or the GN within Sanikiluaq. I do know that we did have some contact with one of the private sector in there. It was suggested that they would look at expanding their facility to accommodate office space needs in the community. To the best of my knowledge, they declined to move in that direction after some discussions with our property management staff. So we didn't get the specific details to the minister because, to my knowledge, the private sector withdrew. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was my understanding that there may have been an opportunity to have the office building built if the GN was willing to lease the office space from the private sector.

My question will be: if somebody comes forward and wants to build an office complex, would the government enter into a lease agreement for these office spaces before the building is built? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I'll defer the response to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is something that we would have to take a look at. In terms of entering into commercial leases, as part of policy of the Government of Nunavut, we have to look at possibility of lease versus own. That analysis will have to be done to determine what the most cost-effective approach is for the department to look at in terms of lease requirements and that. I suspect that once the office space needs assessment has been completed, we will look at what our options are in terms of addressing those needs. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** One final question, Mr. Chairman. In reality, six months for your consultant to do their work, another couple of months to put the report together, and according to your capital planning structure, it will take at least five years before a building is built. So in reality, it will be six years before we see any office space available in our community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will once again defer it to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, that depends on once we do our needs assessment and we will determine what's available in the community. If there are other opportunities that can be formed as part of the study, it's too early for me to say right now what direction we can go in until we get this information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation) Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Colleagues, we have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. (interpretation) Don't anyone speak to it.

>> *Laughter*

All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the

Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Ugyuk. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus in the Tuktuk Boardroom commencing at nine o'clock.

Orders of the Day for March 12:

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 2
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned  
until Wednesday, March 12, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:48*

