



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 35

Monday, March 2, 2015

Pages 1833 – 1891

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

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(Arviat South)

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 2, 2015

Members Present:

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, 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 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Mikkungwak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, fellow Nunavummiut. Ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) members, visitors, interpreters, and our staff, welcome to the House.

Members, I wish to inform you that the Member for Gjoa Haven, Tony Akoak, will be absent from the House. He is travelling with Minister Monica Ell. They will be absent from the House until Wednesday.

Going to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Government House Leader, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 100 – 4(2):
Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Monica Ell will be absent from the House March 2 and 3, 2015 to attend the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's Symposium in Toronto, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Minister's Statement 101 – 4(2):
Understanding Nunavut's Child
Care Regulations Training

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleagues that my department has provided training on the Understanding Nunavut's Child Care Regulations Manual in all communities in Nunavut that have an operating licensed child care facility.

(interpretation ends) The early childhood staff travelled to all communities that have licensed child care facilities during the past five months and provided training on the new manual. Whale Cove, Repulse Bay, Hall Beach, and Qikiqtarjuaq have not had the training sessions. When child care facilities in these communities are ready to open, we will provide them with training. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, by having the training in the communities, we were able to offer this training to all staff, all board members, and all parents who wished to attend. Regional or territorial training would have limited the number

of people we could train from each community.

The manual, Understanding Nunavut's Child Care Regulations, helps to provide clarification on each regulation in the Child Day Care Regulations. It explains why we have the regulation, what it means, and how to follow it.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this manual and training addresses the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations regarding safety in schools and daycares. It will help all staff and board members ensure that their licensed early child care facility is meeting the requirements that are stated in the regulations.

(interpretation) We are pleased that we have been able to provide so many people in the communities the opportunity to participate in this training. We believe that it will increase the level of quality programming in all of Nunavut's licensed child care facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister for the Status of Women, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 102 – 4(2):
National Roundtable on Missing
and Murdered Indigenous Women**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I say "good day" to the residents of Netsilik.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of a recent meeting I attended. Last Friday, February 27, I had the opportunity to participate in the National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, indigenous women and girls are three times more likely to be victims of violence than non-Indigenous women. In a 2014 report, the RCMP estimated there have been 1,181 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls in the country since 1980. Of those, 164 are missing and 1,017 were homicides. This is simply unacceptable.

The National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls included representatives from families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, the Assembly of First Nations, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Native Women's Association of Canada, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Métis National Council, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation, all provinces and territories, and the federal government. As part of the roundtable, delegates committed to ongoing dialogue and coordinated action to address the unequal number of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Mr. Speaker, keeping indigenous women and girls safe and well is a shared, national responsibility, one that can no longer be ignored. I am humbled to have been part of this gathering. On behalf of all Nunavummiut, I commit to working towards a framework to end this violence once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 103 – 4(2):
Celebrating Social Workers' Week
March 2 to March 8, 2015**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I got to catch my breath there. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I'll be making a statement once again.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that Social Workers' Week is from March 2 to March 8, 2015. Social Workers' Week is an opportunity to recognize the important work that our social workers do in their communities. This year's themes for Social Workers' Week will be "Social Workers: Mobilizing Strengths in Individuals and Communities" and "Social Work Profession of Choice."

In Nunavut, we work in an environment where resiliency, community building and support has been the foundation of the work that we do each and every day to support our children, families, and communities.

As we celebrate Social Workers' Week, let us focus on the small things that each and every one of us can do to build strengths in each other and in our communities. Let us build capacity in our communities by making social work a profession of choice for our graduates. Let us also work to support all of the social workers in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the social workers in Nunavut for all of the work that they do. I wish them a safe week and a successful 2015 as they continue to support Nunavummiut in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 218 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Sappa Cookie**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very talented young athlete from my constituency. Mr. Sappa Cookie recently competed in the 2015 Canada Winter Games.

Sappa is a 15-year-old badminton player who has been competing in territorial championships since 2012. In the 2014 Nunavut territorial championship competitions for badminton, Sappa won first place in both singles and double divisions.

Sappa recently exemplified his skills as a competitor during the Canada Winter Games and gained valuable lessons during the events' pre-game clinics.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the families, coaches, chaperones, and all of the volunteers that provide support to these amazing young athletes.

I would like to express my gratitude to every one of the volunteers in Sanikiluaq, and I encourage all youth in Nunavut to take advantage of extracurricular activities available to them.

Despite his many achievements, Sappa's journey as an athlete has only begun and I look forward to hearing about his future accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Mr. Sappa Cookie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 219 – 4(2):
Arrival after Arviat Blizzard**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to inform my fellow Nunavummiut that I am now present at the House. I was unable to attend last week due to inclement weather, but I made it here on the weekend. I wish to extend a good afternoon greeting to the people of Arviat who will now be able to view the proceedings here in the House as I will be raising questions pertinent to them.

Several days ago, on Saturday, I had the privilege to attend the graduation ceremony for the life skills counsellors. There were two Arviat residents who completed the program and I was ecstatic to hear about their accomplishments. I want to share in congratulating them and their families. Mike Gibbons and Billy Okotok

graduated from the program, and I take pride in their dedication to complete the course, as it will assist them in their daily duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for... I apologize for my error. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member's Statement 220 – 4(2):
Baker Lake Fundraiser for
Christmas**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge several people, their families, and certain individuals in Baker Lake on an event that occurred over the Christmas season and which was reported in the newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, during the Christmas season, there were two events that took place in Baker Lake that were quite successful. Residents of Baker Lake were able to donate funds to a specific account at the local Northern Store. The funds that were collected were used to buy hampers, including turkeys, vegetables, as well as baking supplies to use for Christmas festivities.

The RCMP constables were very instrumental in this initiative and I want to recognize Constable Jeremy Bowser and Constable Cory Chowner and their families, along with Department of Family Services employees, who teamed

up to fill 50 food hampers, which were then delivered to families in need, people on income support or those with food insecurity over the holidays. This was of great help to the residents. The Northern Store was an active participant in this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the second event that was a cause for celebration was a drive by local businesses in Baker Lake to collect funds to donate to those less fortunate. After they collected the donations, on December 23, they delivered the funds to the Baker Lake RCMP detachment, which then purchased approximately 1,000 Christmas presents to the local children of the community. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 221 – 4(2): The Need for a 24-hour Elders Facility in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to once again stress the urgent need for our government to build and operate a 24-hour elders care facility in Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the number of elders in our community is growing steadily every year, and the growing number of elders leads to growing concerns for their health, safety, and well-being.

Our elders can quickly become vulnerable, especially as their health weakens and they can no longer be self-

reliant or handle the basic tasks of daily living.

Many elders suffer from abuse, often in the form of financial abuse when family members take their pension or Old Age Security cheques. This leads to stress which has a very negative impact on their health.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have raised this issue. The former Minister of Health acknowledged that over 3 percent of our population is over the age of 65. She further committed to conducting a needs assessment regarding the establishment of another elders care facility. I sincerely hope that the new Minister of Health will honour that commitment.

Later on today at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a petition signed by the residents of Rankin Inlet on this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Member's Statement 222 – 4(2): Quality of Community Health Care

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut as well as my constituents in Arctic Bay and Quttiktuq, those present, those watching on TV, and my fellow MLAs.

I rise again today to address a concern that was brought forward by a constituent of mine, but which I fear is a common concern across many of Nunavut's communities, about the

quality of health care at our local community health centres.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this is not the place to be discussing the specific problems of specific individuals and the specific professionals who treated them or did not give them treatment. However, I feel that I must raise this issue for the benefit of all Nunavummiut.

My constituent faced a serious medical urgency in his home community and when he was medevaced to the Qikiqtani General Hospital, the doctor who saw him there told my constituent to contact his MLA, who is me, about the quality of care at the local health centre.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that nursing is a difficult job, and providing a wide range of health care services in remote locations, such as in our High Arctic communities, and without a doctor close by is very challenging.

However, it is important that our government ensures that the nurses who are hired to work in our community health centres can provide the best quality care and that they always do so to the best of their abilities. Our government should carefully monitor the standard of care provided at our community health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 223 – 4(2):
Nunavut Participants at Canada
Winter Games**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last evening, I was watching the closing ceremonies for the Canada Winter Games.

It was with a lot of pride that I saw a number of our athletes participating in the closing ceremonies, as well as when I watched the opening ceremony. I was watching it with my children last night and I would like to assure or let all of Nunavut know the impact these athletes have amongst our youth and to gain incentives to strive to achieve the level of success that these participating athletes have had.

Mr. Speaker, there were some groundbreaking moments at the most recent Games. We had a number of athletes competing at the national level and proving to their counterparts across Canada that not only do we belong at these Games, but that our athletes are competitive at these Games.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to our youngest representative, Megan Dialla, who is the daughter of one of our interpreters here in the legislature, who is only 13 years old, participating in the badminton sport at the Winter Games.

Although Nunavut did not win any medals, I would just like to reiterate that we are competitive, that the athletes were treated with the utmost respect, and that they represented Nunavut with great pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 224 – 4(2):
Thankful for Sister's Recovery**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am very happy today and I say “good day” to the people in my community.

Today, my younger sister, who is the youngest, has gone back to work after almost a yearlong absence due to health reasons. With her return to the workplace, I am grateful that she is well enough to go back to work. To all the people who included her in their prayers, I thank you immensely, whether you are from my home community or elsewhere in Nunavut. As this is her first day back on the job, I wanted to publicly state my pleasure and share that news.

There are also several fellow residents of our community who are returning to work, Hatty Aqqaq, Karen Alookey, and Christine Nowyook, so I take great pride in their return to work as they remain fellow residents of our community. Prayer does play a large part in healing.

I would also like to thank the doctors and the nurses who treated my younger sister. I thank them very much. The government has to pay for this service. That's how they provide those services when we don't feel well or when we are sick. They have to provide those services. I thank them. I also thank God for her ability to return to her two boys.

I just wanted to raise and state my appreciation and to say “good day” to the people of Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 225 – 4(2):
Graduates of Ilinniarvimmi
Inuusilirijiit Counsellors**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my congratulations to all the students graduating from the *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* School Community Counsellor program. I think we even have some here today; it's very nice. It's very important that we recognize the achievement and advancement of all the school counsellors across Nunavut who have just graduated.

Mr. Speaker, although I am proud of all the graduates, I would like to take this time to offer my sincere congratulations to one of my constituents who has worked very hard over the last two years towards this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, Opah Picco works at Joamie School as a school counsellor. She plays a vital role within the school system and is often the first point of contact for many of the young students in the school who may be facing challenging social issues.

Mr. Speaker, the school counsellor becomes one of the most recognizable faces in the school to the students and is one that brings much comfort to the students when needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues here with me today to join me in offering our congratulations to Opah Picco and to all of the graduates of the *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* School

Counsellor program. I wish each and every one of them the very best in their careers as school counsellors across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 226 – 4(2): Inuit Ilagiit Society of Pangnirtung

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give you information about what events have been happening in Pangnirtung. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut.

Last year, two mothers started Inuit Ilagiit (family unity). With respect to this year, they talked about hunger and people who are abused. They wanted to help them out. They started on January 9, 2015.

The Inuit Ilagiit Society received society status for their work. They want to work on (interpretation ends) the programs and services they want to operate, but not limited to a food bank, a family resource centre, Inuit language, culture, and skills, family counselling, children's education, healing program, and soup kitchen.

(interpretation) I would like to congratulate the Inuit Ilagiit Society. The members are Jukeepa Akpalialuk, Dianna Kilabuk, Sheila Veevee, Simo Kilabuk, Leetia Veevee, Geela Kooneeliusie, Helen Kisa, Tulu Nakashuk, and Eric Lawlor.

These people who started this society have been working on a food bank to provide food to the people in Pangnirtung. I am very happy that the society has started their work to help the people in the community get back on their feet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 227 – 4(2): Young Polar Bear Hunter in Cape Dorset

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share some news and to extend my congratulations to a person who shot their first ever polar bear, Joe Jaw Salamonie. He is younger than I am, but he accomplished something I take great pride in, as it is another of life's accomplishments that most of us assume will never happen to us.

He was able to shoot the polar bear and he has surpassed me. I have never shot a polar bear, so I am a bit envious. Some day I, too, may be lucky enough to harvest my first polar bear. Nevertheless, I want to express my pride in his accomplishment along with his hunting partner, the former Member for South Baffin, Olayuk Akesuk.

I want to congratulate Joe Jaw Salamonie and those who acknowledged him on his successful hunt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 338 – 4(2): Status of Standing Offer Agreement for Government of Nunavut Medical and Duty Travel

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question (interpretation ends) asked by Mr. Enook, MLA for Tununig, to the Minister of Community and Government Services, No. 338 – 4(2). (interpretation) This question was asked on February 25, 2015. (interpretation ends) Subject: Status of Standing Offer Agreement for Government of Nunavut Medical and Duty Travel.

Question:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he can update the House today on the status of the government's standing offer agreement for medical and duty travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

Mr. Speaker, CGS provides departments with support and direction to ensure that procurement processes are properly followed for GN contracts. CGS Procurement does not participate in the evaluation of GN contracts.

The Department of Health is responsible for signing and administering the

medical/duty travel contract. Currently, that contract expires on August 31, 2015. The Department of Health will determine and notify CGS whether they plan to extend the one-year renewal option or to proceed with an RFP for a new contract. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize this visitor in the gallery, although she isn't one of my constituents. I went to school with her and when I went to Arviat for the first time, I didn't know a single person as a young man and she was the only recognizable person in the community. Mary Kuksuk Tatty is whom I want to acknowledge, although she is a sister of my executive colleague sitting next to me, but I wanted to recognize her first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Although Mr. Okalik beat me to the punch, that is fine by me.

Firstly, I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut.

I rise today to acknowledge members of my immediate family. Nonetheless, since it is a rare occasion to recognize people from my community and while I have this opportunity, I want to acknowledge them.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize this person (interpretation ends) one more time, (interpretation) my sister, Mary Ulivvaq Tatty, who is here with her daughters, Marnie and Donna Tatty. One of them lives here in Iqaluit, but Donna will be returning to Rankin Inlet along with Mary perhaps this afternoon. I hope they have a safe travel home.

Lastly, the final person I want to recognize is another sister who arrived for the weekend ceremonies, Elizabeth Voisey, and she lives in my constituency community of Whale Cove. Many people may know of her work, as many of us here in this House have jackets she made which we wear. She stated that she receives orders from outside Nunavut and she has sent her creations to people she has never even met. If any of the people who purchased her creations are watching, she is a gifted seamstress. She is Elizabeth Voisey who makes them. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “hello” to all the residents of Aggu. Today, I want to recognize this person who is my cousin and “sister,” Patricia Qulaut, as

well as John-Paul, sitting in the gallery. They may know who she is, as she is the wife of our esteemed Speaker, along with their grandson. I wish to welcome them warmly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

I would also like to recognize my wife, Patricia, and my son, John-Paul Apak, who is also with us today. Thank you for coming. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 364 – 4(2): Quality of Community Health Care

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

Mr. Speaker, in my Member’s Statement, I spoke about the need for our government to ensure a basic quality of care and service at our community health centres.

Can the minister clearly describe how his department monitors the delivery of health services and measures the quality of care at our community health centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am happy to take that question from the member, as I also wish to look for the best practices in providing health care in Nunavut. If you recall, last week, we announced a review of operational issues of local health centres throughout Nunavut. Once the review has been completed, I will be looking at ways to make improvements to the provision of health care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituent was advised to contact me, his MLA, with his concerns. Can the minister clarify how the residents of Nunavut can have their concerns regarding the quality of health care at their community health centres addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am always open to hearing concerns of any residents requiring assistance. Further, when the concern is submitted in a written format, it is a lot easier to investigate. If anyone has concerns, they should write their concerns and forward them to our department. We also have an office where people with concerns can call and I can provide the contact

information later in our proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there is a process for individual concerns to be addressed through the Department of Health's patient relations office, but there are also many general concerns about the quality of health care delivered by nurses in community health centres all across Nunavut. Will the minister commit to undertaking a full review of how his department evaluates the quality of health care across all of Nunavut's community health centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, we will try to conduct a thorough investigation of the operations of our local health centres as well as the quality of health care provided.

Nonetheless, I want to also state here that quite a number of health centres are operating quite well and I take pride in their provision of quality health care, but there are some health centres where errors occur. In those cases, we have to properly assess the situations that led to those errors. I share concerns about health care in cases where mistakes are made, as we have to address them to ensure they aren't repeated and to move forward.

If any resident has a concern, they can call a toll-free number, which is 1-855-483-3003. Any resident can call this number to express their concerns. I am also very pleased whenever I am apprised by my colleagues about concerns amongst their constituents, especially when they submit written concerns, as that makes the process easier to review the specific concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 365 – 4(2): Scope of Independent External Review

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been expressed that the scope of independent external review into the death of Makibi Timilak is too narrow in that its terms of reference do not seem to allow for a review of the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

It has been reported in the news that the minister has stated that it is possible that “more extensive work” could be done. Could the minister elaborate today on his comments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The terms of reference include references to availing any resources or assistance the reviewer may require and we are open to providing that assistance. If they wish to

look at any particular aspect surrounding the failure of our health system that led to this death, then they will be made available for review to the independent reviewer. We are open to providing the information, as we want to ensure a proper review with the right information at the end of the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if he is open to modifying the formal terms of reference for the independent external review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any independent process operating outside the purview of this government is outside of our control. However, our office provides the scope of the review and we will not interfere with the process. That is why we have stated that we will provide any assistance necessary for the independent external review and this includes all operational matters they feel would need to be reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to state for the record that I have reached out myself in recent days to Ms. Peterson, and I have assured her that I will be ready to provide any

assistance that she may find to be of use in her important work. I look forward to being in Cape Dorset when she travels to the community.

Can the minister indicate how the community will be informed in the coming weeks about the status of the review process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This external review requires independence from this government and I won't be directing any further action as to what she needs to review. She will have the discretion to conduct her review independently. Perhaps after Ms. Peterson has had a chance to prepare her review and identified her requirements, we will be able to start providing the information in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 366 – 4(2): The Need for a 24-hour Elders Facility in Rankin Inlet

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's Statement, the need for a 24-hour care facility in Rankin Inlet is growing. In March of 2014, the Minister of Health committed to conducting a needs assessment on this

issue and to address the need for long-term care for our elders.

Can the minister indicate whether this needs assessment was ever conducted and provide an update on its current status? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is an issue we are reviewing, particularly the situation in Rankin Inlet, and how we can provide a facility in the future for people with disabilities and elders requiring assistive care. We are currently looking at our options as well as researching what is required to address this need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of elders is steadily growing. We need to be ready to provide the necessary support and care when it is needed. Can the minister explain what specific steps have been taken to date to address the need for a 24-hour elders care facility in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have commenced a needs assessment as to where we are now as well as our needs down the road for caring for our elders.

Yes, we are aware the number of our elders is increasing. Further, with proper medical care, the Inuit lifespan is increasing. We are reviewing these considerations to ensure we have the proper plans in place at the Department of Health to see how else we can address this need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rankin Inlet is not the only community with a growing elder population. Statistics show that in 2013, the number of elders in Nunavut had increased since 2012 by nearly 100 individuals to a total of 1,244 elders. Can the minister clearly describe what steps his department is taking to develop a long-term plan for providing the appropriate care for Nunavummiut elders? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague. An elders care facility is being completed that will house the elders in Cambridge Bay and we will be opening the facility as we approved the budget this session. This is a start and our needs aren't being met even with this facility, so we are making preparations towards that goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 367 – 4(2): Quality of Community Health Services

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

Mr. Speaker, as an MLA, it is difficult at times to know how best to support our constituents, especially when they are going through a very difficult period in their lives and they are understandably concerned about their health, the health of family members, and their future.

I recognize that the (interpretation ends) patient relations office (interpretation) is there to assist people in addressing their health care concerns. Can the minister clearly explain what options are available to Nunavut residents who have contacted the patient relations office and the regional headquarter offices and discussed their situation with the nurses at the community health centre, but still cannot get a resolution to their problem? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the recent Committee of the Whole meeting, we provided that information. There were approximately 147 calls throughout the year to the Office of Patient Relations regarding concerns about health care or the department. I mentioned the number earlier. This office is open to residents and the lines are used, which has benefited many Nunavummiut.

Although that office can't provide a complete answer, they try to assist the person to address their concern as that is their job. This includes the role of nurses in the provision of health care and further, there is an external review underway. I will try to be patient in awaiting the findings. It seems obvious that recommendations will surface to improve the health care that is provided to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, it is important that our government can reassure the residents of Nunavut that steps are taken to ensure that the quality of service at Nunavut's community health centres is the best it can be. Can the minister describe what measures are put in place to ensure that community health centre nurses and other health professionals deliver a standard quality of health service to all Nunavut residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also want to thank my colleagues for approving our latest budget, which increased capacity in the communities. It will be putting in place nurse practitioners, which will greatly increase our capacity throughout Nunavut.

As I said earlier, we're undertaking an external review which will examine how we deal with patients and, in particular,

complaints in relation to health care in the communities. I await the outcome of that review and I will do whatever I can to assist the review. I look forward to receiving the report in the fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, it is very important that the people of Nunavut have confidence in our health care system and the level of service that they can expect to receive at our community health centres. What assurances can the minister provide that complaints and concerns raised by Nunavut residents will be considered, addressed, and responded to in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, there is an external review that will be taking place, and I look forward to the findings of that review and doing whatever I can to assist in improving the health care system in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 368 – 4(2): Family Mediation in Nunavut

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman...oh, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to start that again.

Mr. Speaker, today, my questions are for the Minister of Justice. He's on the hot seat today.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Community Justice Division is responsible for administering the department's mediation and family counselling program, which aims to help families to resolve conflict and move on peacefully as a family unit.

Can the minister indicate which communities currently have a resident family mediator? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I don't have that information with me right now. I look forward to receiving it from my department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask: how does the department currently provide family mediation services to communities that do not have a resident family mediator? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said in my earlier response, I don't have the number for the number of

mediators at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that family mediation provides a safe and honest setting for Nunavut families to build respect and enhance their relationships in times of conflict.

I recognize and support the fact that one of the department's ongoing priorities is to "Explore options to improve family mediation services to Nunavummiut."

Can the minister indicate what specific changes are currently being considered for the family mediation program in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are continually evaluating the services that we provide to the clients we encounter throughout our court system. The issue of family violence is something that involves other departments and we cooperate with all departments in making sure that we provide the best service for our fellow Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 369 – 4(2): Swimming Pool for Repulse Bay

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

Mr. Speaker, I think the minister has heard me ask this question before. There is some history there. I brought the issue up when I was MLA in 2004. I have raised this issue already in the past and I will continue to raise it in the future.

I rise today to say that the swimming pools are an important and vital resource in Nunavut. I feel that there is a pressing need for a swimming pool in the communities, as several residents have drowned who could have survived if they had the ability to swim. If a swimming pool had been available to provide these lessons, these people who drowned may still have been with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the minister the status of this swimming pool issue and whether a new swimming pool can be expected in the communities that I am advocating for. Can you tell me what your future plans are in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Obviously, as the Department of Community and Government Services, we support any local initiative related to physical fitness

or growth and how we can assist them in developing the facilities.

However, the member first raised that question when I became minister of the department and my response will be the same as when I first answered it. The hamlets have to identify their priorities in the (interpretation ends) integrated community sustainability plan (interpretation) as a local need. Within the plan, you can prioritize the capital projects and identify which of the projects is the immediate priority. With that type of detailed plan submitted, after the local council has approved the plan, it would move forward within our department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, this isn't the first time the minister has heard about this issue, as I have raised it in the past on behalf of my two constituency communities that are adamant about acquiring local swimming pools, which fill an essential need.

With his response, do I understand the minister that even when I raise the issue time and again through questions, this concern expressed by my constituency communities which they want me to voice and I have committed to voicing their concerns at the Assembly... ? Now I seem to understand the response from the minister this way: upon the community identifying the project as befitting their local priorities under the plan, which is how I seem to understand it, as this is their first priority, as they have identified them, with the communities already identifying the

swimming pools as a priority, it seems your department feels the opposite, that it isn't important as they haven't identified it as the first priority. Is that how I understand this response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure how to make it any clearer, but I want to be clear in my response. The communities identify through this process their first priority and label it (interpretation ends) priority number one (interpretation) and highlight it.

Nonetheless, if the swimming pool is labelled as their first priority, the community also has to take into consideration their water trucks, fuel trucks, and sewage trucks. If these are secondary to the community, then the swimming pool would be the first priority in the community plan. However, the councils have to approve the plan and submit them. The committee then reviews these plans prior to final approval. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am fully aware that water trucks and sewage trucks are funded through a separate fund that the hamlet receives as block funding related to water and sewage services equipment purchases. The water and sewage rates are put into the fund to pay for their

trucks. This process is separate from the capital planning exercise.

However, the capital plan would seemingly include a swimming pool, as it requires a building to house the swimming pool, and they are expensive to construct and this would include the operational requirements. Nevertheless, that is a different process.

I am unsure if I understand, with the processes being different, how his response included them both. The community identified it as a priority. I understand, perhaps, that the hamlet councils in my constituency haven't identified the swimming pools as being their top priority. That is how I understood it. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital plans identifying the priorities aren't on my desk, unfortunately. With respect to the prioritization list, I can't recall seeing them as of now. I can't speak to the list of priorities because I haven't seen them. However, as per my earlier response, the hamlet has to identify the swimming pool as their number one priority as part of their plan. The committee would review the plans afterwards. Thank you.

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

Question 370 – 4(2): Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Environment.

I brought the subject up many times in the past and I'm probably going to bring it up again, the management of the western Hudson Bay polar bear population.

The government has stated on numerous occasions that IQ, or *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, is to be used and assisted in many things. I believe that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is not being used to assist in the management of polar bears in Nunavut. I also believe that even scientific data is not being used to its full extent in the management of the polar bear population in western Hudson Bay.

Outside pressures from Nunavut and the media is being used more and more and has more influence in the management of the western Hudson Bay polar bear population, specifically the total allowable harvest.

Mr. Speaker, for example, the Department of Environment's own scientific data from 2012 shows that for the last ten years, the western Hudson Bay polar bear population has been stable, yet the total allowable harvest is much lower than what it was ten years ago. If it has been stable, the TAH should be stable. I don't just bring these up on my own. People notice these and see it.

Recently, NWMB was taking submissions for the total allowable

harvest from the western Hudson Bay polar bear population. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board, which is made up of the Kivalliq HTOs, put a submission in to NWMB and their submission was to increase the total allowable harvest for western Hudson Bay.

The Department of Environment also put a submission in and their submission was to keep the current TAH of 24 at the current level for the next three years. My question to the minister is: why is his submission only for 24 bears when scientific data shows that the population has been stable for the past ten years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question and for his presence here in the House. For a brief while, we became concerned that inclement weather would cause you to miss the session. Welcome back.

Yes, this is a matter our department deals with and I am glad he brought it up in his line of questioning. The issues surrounding this matter were based on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I feel it is *Qaujimanituqangat*. Is that right? This includes the researchers, as they too have different positions on this knowledge in the past.

Due to the conflicts between the groups, there was a requirement to conduct a terminology study on the reasons for the conflict between IQ and science when it came to population estimates, particularly in the western Hudson Bay region, in the southern Kivalliq area.

The research papers have provided a foundation for the western Hudson Bay polar bear population estimates. In the past, the TAH for the region was set at a very low number with increases implemented as more information came to light. Part of the findings of the research indicates that the population is stable as opposed to declining. This went (interpretation ends) from declining to stable. (interpretation) The numbers indicate stability.

During the public hearing held by NWMB in Rankin Inlet during the month of December, not on Christmas Day, as I mistakenly said, the hearing included representatives of the government. They submitted their information on the population that is the subject of the hearing. Any person can submit their thoughts on the issue. Therefore, the Government of Nunavut also submitted their positions on the western Hudson Bay population. After the completion of the hearing by NWMB, our department is awaiting the decision of NWMB. We, too, are waiting for their decision so that we can move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is right in saying that there was a slight increase in the TAH of western Hudson Bay three years ago, but that increase was made even before the 2012 report came out. Since the 2000 report came out, he is still asking for the same number of polar bears, 24 a year for the next three years. His data shows that it is stable. I didn't

hear an answer to my question from the minister, so I will ask another question.

If NWMB recommends a TAH of more than 24, will the minister agree to that recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NWMB has to process all of the information submitted by the various levels of government, as well as from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and different Inuit organizations or bodies that collect *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* on this subject.

During the hearing held by NWMB on that population of polar bears, it includes a decision process with timeframes involved. I can't even speculate on the TAH figures for the management zone because it still hasn't been determined. I can't speak to this issue until I have received their decision, as I am waiting for the decision from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One last try.

NWMB is going to make a recommendation to the Minister of the Environment. It's not if; it's not when; they will. After submissions are all taken in and they are, I believe, they're going to do a recommendation to the Minister

of Environment. If the recommendation is for more than 24 bears of the TAH in western Hudson Bay, will the minister go with the recommendation that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board presents to him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will say it again that the decision is currently before the NWMB board. I will carefully consider the decision that NWMB will make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 371 – 4(2): Community Access Program Funding

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question today for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, I had asked some questions regarding CAP funding for community computer access programs across the territory, but specifically here in Iqaluit. At that time, it was brought up that the society status was not in place for the Friends of the Iqaluit Centennial Library. Upon hearing that, the chair of that committee spoke to the treasurer and got confirmation that their society status is in good standing and have correspondence confirming that on April 27 of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a little bit of confusion on how to access funding

under this CAP program across the territory right now. Maybe the minister would be able to just elaborate a little bit on how communities are able to access this funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would just like to reiterate that the department itself fully supports CAP programs and its mandate throughout Nunavut. Again, the department provides funding to CAP at about \$85,000 a year, but again this has not been done so in this past year because the Community Access Program is not currently in good financial standing.

Let me just briefly explain that the Community Access Program has its own Nunavut-wide board and it is the board that, right at this time, we cannot provide funding due to the societies that are not in good standing. That is the Nunavut board that I'm talking about. The Community Access Program is a program which is run by the board. At this time, as I said earlier in my statements, the board is not in good standing.

Again, according to the Financial Administration Manual, it prohibits my department from providing funding to societies that are not in good standing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is interesting to hear from the minister. I've got some correspondence

from the chair of that board and I'll just put a couple of brief quotes within the correspondence. It is saying that at this point, NCAP has lost all of its administrative assistance provided by the Department of Education and that they have been trying since April of 2014 to work out the details of the new MOU, which would include the CAP sustainability funding, but nothing has materialized to date.

In there, he is quoting to a proposal that "I would say that there will be no CAP sustainability funds available this year," and even if an MOU was to be signed, they don't have any staff to administer the funds. I don't see anything in this correspondence where it talks about the society status of the board. I found it interesting that the minister just stated that their financial status is in question.

What precludes any individual society from applying for CAP funding on a community basis, as these funds are available within the Department of Education, and it's obviously a very well used program across the territory? Is there any way where individual proposals could be submitted to the Department of Education to access this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising this concern. Yes, I concur with the member that the Community Access Program labs are very beneficial and we all know that their usage is increasing in the communities within our local libraries.

I just wanted to explain that NCAP is a fund which we have requested funds from, but we haven't heard back from them to date and I hope that is understandable. With the status of the board, they are currently investigating the (interpretation ends) society status. (interpretation) To date, that process hasn't resulted in any approvals due to their failure to provide the requested information. Without the proper operations of the society, we can't provide any funding.

As per my earlier response, we set aside \$85,000 towards this program and the funds are used to purchase computers and software, but it doesn't include any operational funds. It is only for computers and Internet access, including related matters that are funded from this \$85,000 fund.

Let me reiterate that the (interpretation ends) Community Access Program (interpretation) board doesn't have a legitimate society status and without that requirement being met, we can't provide further funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's position, that he is very supportive of this program and recognizes the need for it across the territory.

One of the concerns that I have is, in addition to providing the computer equipment under this program, one of the other costs allocated is, for example, Internet charges that are paid for by these societies, which in turn gets

claimed back to NCAP or to the Nunavut committee that is under question right now. I have a concern that this may leave some of the individual community societies in a deficit position whereas some communities may have a lot more active fundraising activities where maybe they could offset.

What I would like to get some clarity from the minister on is if individual societies can apply to the Department of Education to access this CAP funding without going through the board committee that is under question right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The funds we contribute are specific towards this \$85,000 fund which is for an entire year. The actual amount is finite and it is for assisting these programs, as per my earlier statement. However, as a government, we can make contributions to certain bodies. DEAs must have society status that is in good standing. With that requirement met, it makes the contribution easier to process when a proposal is submitted from a society with paperwork up to date and if they meet all legal requirements, it does occur.

Nonetheless, we want to provide contributions to these local computer access programs, (interpretation ends) CAP programs. (interpretation) We want to assist them as soon as we can. As per my earlier response, contributions can only be provided with organizations with the proper (interpretation ends) society

status. (interpretation) I do fully support this program and we look forward to providing assistance, as residents utilize the computers in the communities. I also believe in the benefits of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 372 – 4(2): Fuel Delivery Services in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will be aware, a situation developed in Sanikiluaq on Friday concerning the community's fuel delivery services, which are provided by a private entity under contract to the department.

It is my understanding that two of the contractor's three trucks have been in need of repair for some time. On Friday, the third truck experienced mechanical failure which took it off the road, causing a disruption in service. These trucks deliver fuel to homes, government buildings, and the airport. Mr. Speaker, aircraft that land and take off from Sanikiluaq rely on these fuel delivery services.

Can the minister indicate what actions his department took to address the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, the member is right. The community of Sanikiluaq experienced some problems with their fuel delivery trucks. However, once we found out that there was a problem, we sent a mechanic on March 1 and the main fuel truck is now operational. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fuel delivery services are essential in all Nunavut communities. Can the minister indicate how his department works with fuel delivery contractors to ensure that their equipment is regularly inspected and kept in a good state of repair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Although we haven't had any regular vehicle inspections, it is one of the things that we have been looking at. During my appearance in COW, we mentioned that we are hiring more staff to do community monitoring, and this will be one of the things that these people will be doing as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three trucks don't break down in one day; it happens over a period of time. I'm sure there are reporting processes in

place so that the government knows the state of repair of vehicles in our communities. Can the minister explain what went wrong in this case where all three trucks are down at the same time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of the things that we're faced with this winter in particular is the very cold weather that we've had. We've had other communities experience the same thing. However, as a department, once we know that there's a problem, we do get in there as best as we can to help restore services.

The contractors have the responsibility to ensure that their vehicles are kept running. They're responsible for preventative maintenance and it is their responsibility to ensure that if there is a problem with vehicles, they notify my department so that we can assist in whatever way we can. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 373 – 4(2): Selling of Country Food in Stores

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, the subject of country foods and their intrinsic nutritional value has been espoused in many meetings. Meat from these animals is considered the most nutritious and healthy, yet we can't sell it.

Furthermore, I have attended annual meetings over many years in the ACL system and, with most communities having local co-ops in the Inuit world, this has sparked heated debates, at least within the Co-op memberships, why the food hyped as the most nutritious isn't available for sale.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health identify if any plans are in place to see if country foods can be sold in our territory? I know that in order for the commercial sale of the country food to occur, there are food inspection requirements. I would like to know if the Department of Health is working to utilize our healthiest foods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't deal with these types of issues, so I can't really answer the question. Our department deals with health centres and the provision of health care. With respect to the nutritional value, there is some work done on food, but we don't conduct inspections related to sales. I can't answer his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier comments, whenever the local co-op holds an AGM, this issue is continually raised. The reflexive answer we hear is that country foods can't be sold. Although they are touted as the most nutritious foods, Health Canada doesn't allow commercial sales. We hear this every year. Whenever a presentation is made about nutrition and the healthiest foods, the health care workers tout country food as the healthiest choice, yet we can't sell them and no one seems capable of leading this initiative. What is the reason for not allowing their sales? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): As I stated earlier, we don't look after those types of issues, as they are under the auspices of another level of government. Our department has no involvement in any type of sales nor do we have the ability to look at these issues. The commercial sale of food is subject to national legislation that is administered by the federal department of Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 374 – 4(2): Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

I will use this as the foundation for my question in order to clarify the issue in my mind and my questions will be directed to the Minister of Family Services based on her Minister's Statement.

As we are all aware, in Canada, our fellow aboriginal people in particular and specific regional governments have urged the federal government to hold a national inquest into missing and murdered aboriginal women. To date, the government has refused to approve the inquest on this issue.

Let me start off with this question. What is the position of the Nunavut government regarding this inquest request? (interpretation ends) What's your position on the call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Tununig for asking about murdered and missing aboriginal women. Many of the First Nations of Canada have asked for the inquiry or inquest on this subject.

Here in Nunavut, we don't have many missing women, although women have

been murdered in Nunavut. With respect to the social fabric of Nunavut, we are looking at ways to heal our families. Due to that reason, our foundation is to support families.

With respect to the national inquiry, it will cost an exorbitant amount to hold that inquiry and we are looking at ways to resolve our social issues through other avenues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may get to understand the concept sooner, I suppose.

Is the Nunavut government stating that due to the excessive financial costs, this government doesn't support this national inquiry? I seemed to hear that due to the exorbitant costs, it is worrisome. Is that your reasoning for not supporting the national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women? Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister for the Status of Women, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Tununig for requesting clarification on this matter. In Nunavut, we aren't searching for a multitude of missing women and that is what I was trying to get across. Women in Nunavut have been murdered. However, we are fortunate not to have many missing women. The national inquiry will be an expensive process and that is our only assessment of the process. Our position

in Nunavut is that we can better utilize the funding to provide tangible benefits to our women and that is our expectation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is unfortunate since the missing women aren't from Nunavut. Simply due to having no Nunavut names, albeit we seem to be abandoning our fellow aboriginal people because we don't have many missing women in Nunavut, it is an unfortunate position to take.

Let me ask this question related to your Minister's Statement and I will quote from it. "On behalf of all Nunavummiut, I commit to working towards a framework to end this violence once and for all." That is the end of the quote. Let me ask the question on that. What kind of framework are you preparing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister for the Status of Women, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununig for voicing his personal concerns. Yes, we feel sympathy towards people who have missing relatives. However, the situation in Nunavut is that we aren't searching for a multitude of missing relatives. Yes, murders have occurred and we are aware of these cases, but we generally know the identity of the murderer. There are some cases where the murder hasn't yet been solved, but they are not very many. We know that this national inquiry being

advocated includes resolutions that are rarely implemented, yet the process requires large funding needs.

One of our priorities here in Nunavut is to quell the violence between spouses, with territorial numbers way above the national average, as we well know. We have requested funding from the (interpretation ends) federal government (interpretation) as the government to see how we can assist our residents to lower the incidence of violence. I think all members here will have to be fully engaged in order to deal with this issue for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Let's continue. We will continue.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Oh, we're done? (interpretation) I sincerely apologize. The time for question period has expired. I wasn't watching the clock and I apologize.

(interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Petitions. Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 11: Petitions

Petition 002 – 4(2): Petition to Request a 24-hour Elders Facility in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour

today of presenting a petition on behalf of my constituents in Rankin Inlet. This petition has been signed by 142 residents requesting that the Government of Nunavut open and operate a 24-hour elders care facility in the community of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) This petition was started only two weeks ago. I am presenting it now, although it is likely many more people would have signed it if there had been more time before the beginning of our current sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item [14]. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 104 – 4(2): Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2012-2013

Tabled Document 105 – 4(2): Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2013-2014

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports for Nunavut Emergency Management. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Tabled Document 106 – 4(2): Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements March 31, 2014

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements as of March 31, 2014. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 17: Motions

Motion 019 – 4(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the winter 2015 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the

Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:22 and Committee resumed at 15:48*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day to the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee agreed to bring in the minister's staff to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please allow the minister's staff to go to the witness table.

(interpretation) Thank you very much. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Roy Green and our Comptroller, Gershon Moyo. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, we were on page J-5. Following the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I was done asking my questions on Friday. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe where I left off is I was planning on asking some questions regarding the increased funding for Sport and Recreation. The Minister of Finance, in his Budget Address, spoke to increasing funding for sport by 39 percent. Would the minister be able to

elaborate on what that increase is going to benefit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) We are on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The increases that are identified are for the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games. I'm sorry, my error. The increase covers travel and transportation for athletes and coaches, materials and supplies, and purchased services, for a total of \$1,250,000. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of this increase in funding, is there going to be access to further dollars for sport and recreation groups across the territory to access through grants and contributions or is this strictly, as the minister just stated, through funding through travel and accommodations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is no increase to the grants and contributions column in recreation; they will still remain the same. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, I raised a concern that was brought to my attention regarding funding during the transition period from one fiscal year to the next. I don't have the document in front of me, but I believe the minister at the time said that he was going to look into different options that would be available to the department to make sure that groups trying to apply for funding during that transition period would not be overlooked. Has the department made some progress in that avenue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, I would like my deputy minister to elaborate on the response to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Sport and Recreation Division is in the process of doing a review of their grants and contributions policies. One of the areas that we're looking at is, right now, I think there is about half a million dollars for minor sports and recreation that is application-driven. What we are looking at as part of our evaluation is to see if we can't convert this over to some sort of block funding for sport and recreation so that we can do allocations to all communities so that they can assist them in purchasing minor recreation facility equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did locate the binder where I have my copy of that, I guess, we will say, conversation that I had with the minister on May 29 of last year and that was basically the same answer. In the response, he talks about the block funding arrangement and it's something that we're exploring in our future business plan. Would the minister be able to elaborate on what type of discussions have taken place, and is there going to be a timeframe where that block funding arrangement may be put in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are hoping to bring that review to cabinet in April. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to switch gears here.

I would like to talk about the upcoming land referendum that we discussed at our Full Caucus retreat and as well, a couple of times since then. In the 2015-18 business plan, sorry I don't have the page open right now, but it does speak to the department has been developing a work plan to address the upcoming land referendum and that preliminary work has been completed to determine the process to clarify responsibilities and obligations of the various bodies that will be involved throughout the process.

Can you indicate what specific organizations your department has been working with to prepare for the upcoming land referendum? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Although I have the information in front of me, if it's okay with you, I would like to have the deputy minister elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been some discussions that have been raised with respect to who should be the plebiscite authority. At this point, after discussions with the Department of Justice, it is determined that there are at least four possibilities, one being the Legislative Assembly, the other the Commissioner in Executive Council, the third is the Minister of CGS, and/or the final is the Council of Municipal Corporations.

Until the cabinet makes a decision in terms of who the plebiscite authority is going to be for the referendum, we're basically just waiting for the next steps. Once that has been determined, we will proceed with the plebiscite authority and all the groundwork that needs to be done to ensure that this proceeds on time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. A reminder to slow down so that the interpreters can keep up. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies to the interpreters.

Mr. Chairman, on October 30 of last year, the minister stated in the Legislative Assembly that the “department is starting to go through the planning process regarding the 2016 plebiscite that will be held on the issue of municipal lands” and that “We are currently planning and we will also be doing a consultation tour to the communities to make sure that they have all the information.” Can the minister indicate which communities your department has consulted with to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Until such time that we know who the plebiscite authority is going to be, we’re still waiting to proceed with our consultations. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is a somewhat complex, legal task that is going to be undertaken by a lot of the municipalities and by the residents of Nunavut, has there been some preliminary work on reference material that people who are going to be voting on this plebiscite would be able to make sure that we’re making informed decisions? Has some of that material been developed to date and, if so, how early is it going to be rolled out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we have developed some preliminary information for this. However, again, until such time we know who the plebiscite authority is going to be, we are still in waiting mode. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that I can ask questions under Community Services. You can correct me if I am on the wrong page, Mr. Chairman. My question relates to the local governments that receive funding assistance from the territorial government from these funds.

Let me first start off with the budget figures related to hamlet operations. How does the department arrive at these figures? What factors are included? For example, do you assess the cost of all of the operations of the hamlet in determining these amounts? I would like to understand what particular criteria or factors are used to allocate the particular funding level of each community.

Hopefully my question was clear and comprehensible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member’s question

properly, he was asking about the annual funding allocation provided to the hamlets for their O&M, as well as for heavy equipment, such as water delivery trucks or sewage trucks, if that is part of the municipality's priorities. The other avenue of funds for equipment I mentioned is through the water and sewage rates. However, if there is a budget shortfall, specific funds are included within these budgets to address this issue. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for raising that question is I am familiar with the O&M budgets of the municipalities and the various budget line items for the different services they provide. I haven't really referred to the water and sewage services, as municipalities try to balance their budgets using these water rates. However, if we were to look at forecasting the growth of a hamlet's operational requirements, what kind of policies are used to determine the amounts? Hopefully my question is clearer now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the gist of the member's question, yes, there are various programs and services each hamlet operates. When a budget is being prepared, factors such as the size of the built-up area, overall population numbers, and the infrastructure in the hamlets, including the number of buildings operated by the

hamlet, are factored in. This includes the combined length of the local roads in that hamlet within the community proper and that determines their annual portion under the municipal funding formula. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in my past work, I have been an SAO for a hamlet and have done budget preparations as well for the community, so I am pretty familiar with the types of operations entailed in hamlet administrations.

Nonetheless, many hamlets struggle with the limitations of this current funding formula for municipalities as the budgets generally fall short of the annual needs, primarily due to such things as recreational facilities, which is part of local hamlet operations and it can become quite expensive.

The facilities are also large, such as the arenas, community halls, and other facilities covered by the recreational budgets, and operating these facilities eats a large portion of the budgets. With the escalating costs, does the department include cost of living increases to electrical, fuel, or maintenance funds as part of the annual budget planning exercises? Does the formula consider all of these aspects in running recreation in communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the types of factors the member referred to,

pretty well all of these factors are taken into consideration when reviewing the annual budgets for the hamlets.

As for the first part of his question, for next year's (interpretation ends) funding formula, (interpretation) we will be assessing the formula to improve the funding for the hamlets. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the non-budgeted items? Do the hamlets have to fundraise to provide funding for programs that are not part of the funding formula? Hamlets have arenas, community halls, and various recreation facilities they have to pay for. Many hamlets fundraise to fund the operations of these particular facilities. Is that the case? Do hamlets have to search for additional funding for the operation of these facilities? Does the government budget for the entire year of operations as part of their funding arrangements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, recreational facilities, such as community halls and arenas, are provided operational funds and the government tries to fund the entire year's operations. It is when communities exceed their budgets or wish to add additional hours where they have to search for additional monies to fund them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is understandable. The cost of operations is covered considering all aspects of running those operations. If the price of fuel goes up or the electricity rate goes up, they will be covered. Is that the actual case? How does the department arrive at the actual operational costs for every one of these facilities on a per annum basis that is to cover the whole year without the need for fundraising? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my last question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, every hamlet is assessed as to their core funding needs and the funding follows the average annual operational requirements of each community. The funds are meant to be adequate for the entire year. However, costs can increase due to different factors, which result in budget shortfalls. That is why the (interpretation ends) funding formula (interpretation) will be reviewed as to its adequacy. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, (interpretation ends) hon. minister. (interpretation) I wish to return to this matter and I will ask generalized questions to try to clarify the situation in

my own mind, as I am unclear about many related issues.

Nonetheless, I wish to ask this question first related to the question asked by my colleague, Mr. Hickes, about the land referendum proposed to ask if municipal lands can be sold. This plebiscite is something I wanted to ask further questions about, although I am aware and understand that the planning is in the initial stages.

Has the department made any decisions about the eligibility criteria of the voters list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, a person has to be 18 years of age and living in Nunavut for a year in order for them to vote in the referendum. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the department ever considered the private homeowners who lease the land and the implications therein? There aren't very many people on that list if you look at the entire territory of Nunavut.

Here we have a situation where people with no vested interest or tangible personal impacts will determine the future with this question asking about the status of land ownership and the sale of municipal lands, as the numbers of private homeowners is tiny compared to

other voting cliques. (interpretation ends) Is that fair? (interpretation) Is that legitimately protecting the interests of private homeowners in Nunavut?

Don't the possible implications of people voting who have no ownership interests determining this question concern you? Are the homeowners absolutely negligible in that their fate is going to be determined by either people with no ownership or even transients who have lived in Nunavut for one year? They will determine my future as a homeowner. Is that fair? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. I, too, have thought of the concern expressed by my colleague, as I am a private homeowner. Nevertheless, the current eligibility criteria are set at those who have achieved a minimum of 18 years and have been resident in Nunavut for a period of one year. Anyone meeting those criteria will be able to vote. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose I should take that to mean that it is useless to question these minimalist requirements. Since they are written as the minimum criteria, we can't ever change the eligibility criteria forever and ever, amen? Is that the way it is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, to say that the criteria are cast in stone isn't the case. To say we will never change the criteria is not true. If the majority requests changes to the eligibility requirements or to change the question, these issues are still under consideration as to exactly how it will unfold. However, the only written criteria are the two in front of us that we are just following for the referendum. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can members be shown how to go about enacting changes to the criteria? If the members wish to change the eligibility requirements, what steps are needed to make these changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. As per my earlier statement, currently, there hasn't been any decision as to which body or organization will have the referendum or (interpretation ends) plebiscite authority. (interpretation) Once that decision has been made, the other issues will most likely fall into place. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once that decision has been made for investiture of authority, will members have an opportunity to express our concerns? When the authority is decided, will we have the opportunity to debate changes to the

eligibility criteria for this referendum? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to changes to this process, when decisions are deliberated upon, we will have to work with the Department of Justice to determine the eligibility criteria and the legal questions related to the vote. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, his department will consult with the Department of Justice. What about the average citizen or homeowners who may harbour concerns? Who can we consult to share our wishes to change the voting eligibility requirements if we feel they are too simplistic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be better if you would allow my deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the *Plebiscites Act*, right now, anybody who is over 18 years old and has one-year residency in the territory is able to vote under the lands referendum. If we were to change the voting requirement, it is something that we

would need to discuss with the Department of Justice. We certainly can take the member's concern and bring this forward and get a legal opinion on this matter.

At this point in time, the *Plebiscites Act* clearly states, 18 years old and one-year resident. The other thing you want to bear in mind is that you may be a tenant today, but you could very well be a homeowner tomorrow. There is some justification for people having a say in terms of how the land titles would change either through a yes or no vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is exactly my point and reason for my being disconcerted about this issue. That is my point. I am tired of transient residents and people who just come to work in Nunavut determining our future, especially since they have no roots here in Nunavut. People exactly like you public servants can vote in this referendum to determine my future.

I have my roots and will never leave my home, along with my children and grandchildren while temporary residents have long gone. Many government officials, even teachers who have worked in Nunavut, will be long gone, yet they will determine the type of implications affecting me as a homeowner. Here again, we have outsiders controlling these significant events. Shouldn't this be debated with extreme caution? Should consideration be based on the impacts?

I seemed to hear the (interpretation ends) deputy minister (interpretation) state (interpretation ends) so what, (interpretation) it doesn't matter since these residents may eventually purchase a home down the road. The only answer I seem to not hear is this, "Your questions are pointless." You won't take any of these impacts into consideration when commencing your discussions with the Department of Justice for the referendum question and the eligibility criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps my response wasn't clear enough. I will try to respond clearly. Yes, the concerns held by the public will be taken into consideration when discussions are underway. When we initiate consultations with the Department of Justice, the concerns you have voiced are the type of concerns we will have to review and we have noted them. We will be able to provide that information when determining the question, as those of us who will remain in Nunavut need to have our concerns heard and to address them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like further clarification on my earlier question regarding consultations. Yes, the officials and departmental heads will have that opportunity to discuss the concerns at that level, but what about the average resident of Nunavut? What avenue will we have to share our concerns? Here I am talking about people who aren't involved in politics or

representing others. What avenue will we have to voice our concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the question the member raises, when the authority has been determined for this referendum, then the issue the member raised will most likely be determined for people to raise their concerns as well as to share their thoughts on the eligibility criteria. That may also change separate from what we just discussed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a significant concern I hold; perhaps it isn't even a concern for other people. The reason for my concern is to protect my fellow Inuit who may not be provided the opportunity to share their thoughts on this vote that will have huge implications. The reason why Inuit fought for Nunavut and a government was to bring the government closer to the people and to ensure that Inuit are included in momentous decisions affecting them.

The response I heard was that it may be determined. Right away, I understand that also means it may never be determined as well. That is how I take that response, as you only seem to be saying half of the answer. It may or may not be determined, but I take that to mean that it may not even be changed. Am I correct in my understanding of this response and, if so, who will make that

determination? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are all aware and understand fully that prior to the referendum, our department will be consulting the communities to hear their concerns and to understand the wishes of each local community as it relates to this question. We will be going to disseminate the information and to hear their thoughts on the matter. That is part of our plan prior to the referendum. When we conduct our consultation tour, we will invite private homeowners as well as people in public housing to listen to their concerns and thoughts on the criteria. This will be part of our planned approach. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly hope I am entirely understandable in what I am trying to state here. Let me use an example. I won't use other communities in this example, as I will use our local community to put my point across.

In Pond Inlet, we have nurses who spend an entire year in the community and they generally leave after this year in the health centre. However, they will determine my future because they can vote. We have teachers in Pond Inlet who teach for the calendar year and after one year, they are termed as residents of Nunavut, but the majority tends to leave. However, they are determining the question of whether I can own the land under my home; they are eligible based on the minimalist criteria.

This is extremely disconcerting to me on a personal level since most transients will leave Nunavut. I am tired of transient residents continually determining the future of long-term residents. How many communities will be included in your consultation tour, or is this an issue that still requires further debate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per my response earlier, when they start the consultation tour, they will be open to all the concerns or thoughts expressed by residents. For the particular concerns or matters of great interest to the residents, they will be included in the reports. We plan on going to every community in Nunavut to consult with them, as all communities have to be involved and to understand the reason for the referendum. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please provide some direction if you can. If you have other names, I can leave my questions on this matter since I will have other questions on other matters. I know that I do have some time left on my 10 minutes, although the time is still ticking down when I am not asking questions. Mr. Chairman, if you can get back to me later on, I will leave this issue for now to allow other members an opportunity. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize I wasn't here when you first came up in Committee of the Whole, but I think it's safe to say that this issue hasn't been raised yet and that's the water and sewage funding program. Perhaps my first question is: how is this program administered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe for the minute details on this, if you will allow me, I'll ask my deputy minister to elaborate. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The existing water and sewage subsidy program is administered through CGS' Community Development Branch and it's kind of a formula that has been pretty much established, I think, going back from the transition from the GNWT.

What the department is doing early in the new fiscal year is that we're taking a comprehensive review of the existing water and sewage subsidy program to determine if the existing program is capturing all of the cost components associated with providing those services and to determine what is required to allow communities to be sustainable in the long term. We are actually drafting the RFP now to develop the scope of work we need to get done for this particular program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the issues I have raised in the past is about community support and development. I read that much work has been done now to get the letter of direction rescinded by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada of the five municipalities. How many other municipalities are under such letters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are no other communities under a letter of direction. Those were the only five. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you state for the record which communities are the five municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. The five communities that are referred to are Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, and Kimmirut.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me what

is going on in Iqaluit with their water licence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Unfortunately, we don't have any information on the status of the city's water licence at this point. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me what role do you play with the city, then, when it comes to issues such as that? Are they totally on their own or is this something that the department works with them with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток: I don't want to say that they are totally on their own. However, they are a tax-based municipality. However, as a department, we are there, if they ask, to provide them with support and advice so that they can meet the compliance requirements. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how many times that that has happened in the recent past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up until the fall of this year, we were meeting every quarter with the City of Iqaluit officials, usually with the mayor and support staff. We haven't had a meeting since September, but I've had discussions with the city last week since the new mayor came on stream. It's true that we need to get back to those quarterly discussions. We are planning the meeting with the city officials in March of this month and we will certainly be going down through any issues that they've got and certainly work with them to see if there is any technical support, certainly, that the department can provide back to the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your Minister's Statement last Thursday, you stated that "There is still much work to do to bring municipalities into compliance with their water licences." Can you, as the minister, explain what you mean by "much work to"? What still needs to be done to bring all Nunavut communities that are not compliant [into compliance]? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, some of the items we want to resolve can

be corrected immediately while other issues would take longer. Some of them may require a longer time, but we are looking at the whole spectrum. As it isn't just for water services, it includes sewage-related needs like sewage lagoon repairs, and we want to have these dealt with by the municipalities. We imagine this can be completed fairly quickly.

Furthermore, we can provide more training on waste management and the proper methods involved in the various areas. These are the types of things we can work on in the interim, including the landfill (interpretation ends) fencing (interpretation) and other related waste management issues. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go on in my questioning, I would like to ask a question in regard to the Community Development Fund. How is this fund administered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what page she is referring to in her question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, if you can elaborate as to what page in the business plan. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I'm on page 160 of the business plan, \$1.1 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood her question, the (interpretation ends) Community Development Fund (interpretation) will be used for teaching courses at Arctic College related to financial management. (interpretation ends) SAO professional development, office administration, recreation leaders, works foreman, and by-law officer training (interpretation) are the different courses that will be offered through this initiative. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for that answer. Can a hamlet use this program, perhaps, to have more support or training around finance management? We have heard in the recent past some of the hamlets having serious financial difficulties and I'm wondering if this program can be used towards that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): First of all, yes. As I stated earlier, it could be useful training for finance officers. It is part and parcel of the Community Development Fund. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I would like to go on to address the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons budget

here. It goes from \$75,000 to \$193,000. That is a pretty big jump. Can you tell us why? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will read it in English. (interpretation ends) It provides a tax relief under the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*. (interpretation) It only refers to Iqaluit. The tax relief is basically for Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe I got the whole answer I am looking for. Why has the budget... ? It was set at \$75,000 and now it is \$193,000. Can you explain why it's such a big jump? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I didn't answer your question correctly. There was an increase in the number of senior citizens and disabled persons. There were 28 in 2009, but in 2014, there were 48. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give us a good idea on who is using the program, can you give me a breakdown of seniors versus those

with disabilities? Who is accessing the program? Is it half and half or is one side of it more than the other? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have that level of detailed information; however, I would be happy to get that information for you. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask a question about the mobile equipment block funding only because I really don't know obviously very much about this. How is this program administered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, I would like to ask my deputy minister to elaborate. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The existing municipal block funding is administered by the Community Development Branch as well. Basically, each municipality is provided with a contribution of approximately \$116,000 annually to cover municipal block funding, such as graders, backhoes, and

dump trucks, those types of vehicles that the municipalities use. That is pretty much what the fund is used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that the budget has not changed over the last year and the way that it is written, I don't see any changes coming up. When you look at the demand from the community, is the budget meeting the demand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to that budget, it hasn't changed, albeit for next fiscal year, that amount will change, as we are currently working on the budget. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I would like to ask a question regarding Community Infrastructure. This is on your business plan, 161, \$1.3 million or a little more. It says here, "Develops the departmental Five Year Capital Plan," and it has an advisory committee. Can you tell us who sits on the advisory committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, I'll ask my

deputy minister to provide that information.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll allow Mr. Green to answer. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is in the Community Infrastructure Branch within Community and Government Services. It consists of nine staff that provide support to municipalities for the annual capital plan. The committee is the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. It consists of three senior GN employees and three municipal mayors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, this advisory committee looks at proposals from all of the municipalities and then they decide what is going to be funded. My other question would be: what are usually the funding requests? What do you approve? Everybody wants a new arena. Everybody wants everything. How do you go about setting the priorities with the communities so that their requests can actually be met, that it actually makes sense? If you know what I mean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. Just so that we get the proper response to this, if I may, I would like to defer that to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each municipality has their integrated sustainability plans that they update annually. Basically, each municipality takes their priorities from those plans and submits them to the CGS Community Infrastructure Branch. All those requests are consolidated in a report.

Basically, the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee will rank and prioritize the projects that are brought forward based on the GN's ranking and prioritization criteria. When we rank those, the highest ranking would be anything that relates to health and safety. That would take priority over some situation where we would need an arena upgrade. Plus the fact that in situations where we have capacity problems within communities for their hamlet office or community hall, then that is also pretty high ranking. There is a model that they use to rank and prioritize projects on behalf of the municipalities.

The three municipal mayors play an integral role in making sure that the process is transparent for all municipalities across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I understand this correctly, let's say, a lot of communities would like recreation facilities and they are into millions of dollars. Members here, my fellow colleagues, have raised issues like long-term elder housing as a real priority. Would something like long-term elder housing or new health facilities be identified by the community

or is that something that only comes from the government? What is the community identifying specifically? Is it only truly like water, sewage, and that kind of stuff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can respond to the question, but I will ask that my deputy minister respond to it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community sustainability plans capture the entire infrastructure within a community in terms of core infrastructure for programs and services. For the CGS branch, when we do the reconciliatory work, our focus is on municipal infrastructure, and then each department brings forward their requests for schools and education. Any projects that have been ranked and prioritized by the Nunavut infrastructure committee must also be ranked against those projects as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a community put in a request for an arena, yet there has been strong support to put in a long-term elder facility, and there is only enough money to do one, based upon the process and procedures that you have in place, if the money was awarded, that would mean then that the long-term elder centre would be the one built. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, you are correct.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go to Sport and Recreation. Is this fund proposal-based? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is fixed. However, if I may, maybe just touch on some of the things that this money is used for; grants and contributions provided to sport organizations representing over 3,000 participants, sport organizations that include basketball, volleyball, and soccer, as an example, grants also provided to municipalities for facility improvements, and skills development and physical activity initiatives. Those are some of the examples of where this money is spent. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do you go about ensuring that all communities can access this program? I'm thinking particularly of students or kids who want to play sports. They want to come to Iqaluit or they want to go down south or any other opportunities. How do you make sure that everybody can access this? We have

teams all over and some live quite far away, for example, from Iqaluit. Look at the High Arctic. It's very expensive to get there and from. How do you ensure that communities are all accessing this program and, if they do, how is it divided up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every year, the hamlets or the (interpretation ends) recreation leaders (interpretation) in the communities receive the written information outlining the various funding grants available to them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under your environmental work plan on page 162 of the business plan, it says that "Effluent quality standards for Nunavut" are being developed. I'm wondering: does this mean that Nunavut has been operating without such standards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my deputy minister can provide a detailed response to clarify the question, so if you could ask my deputy minister to respond.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut and other northern territories

were given a five-year exemption under the CCME strategy for the effluent discharge levels.

CGS had hired Dalhousie University to do a review to gather baseline data on the existing sewage lagoons to see if they can meet the new proposed, recommended effluent levels. Dalhousie has finished doing their collection of data. They are now in the process of finalizing their analysis of the collection of data.

We will probably know within the next four to six months, based on their sampling, if we would need to do any improvements to our existing wastewater management facilities to meet the guidelines. From discussions with the officials from Dalhousie University, there are certainly strong indications that those systems are performing well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. We are on page J-5. Continuing on, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister. My first question I want to ask is related to some of the questions my colleague already asked about in the business plan on page 160.

My colleague was asking questions about elders and people with disabilities and assistance programs. One community is mentioned in the plan, and we have many communities in Nunavut. What about the other communities in Nunavut? Are they included? That is my first question. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood my colleague's question, the funds slated for people with disabilities and elders are specific to Iqaluit. Iqaluit is the only community under our department's budget. All of the other communities receive funding from the Department of Finance. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That issue is now clearly understandable, so I will move to another issue.

It may have been obvious, but when I was first elected as an MLA, I was representing search and rescue groups in Baker Lake and throughout Nunavut. I continue to support the search and rescue groups in Nunavut and Baker Lake. However, on page 161, regarding the search and rescue groups, the funding has never increased.

If you look at the English version, (interpretation ends) "SARO Equipment and communication systems," (interpretation) with that written information identifying the Department of Community and Government Services as being responsible for this part, will they be standardizing the communication equipment used by the search and rescue groups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local search and rescue groups or the municipal governments are able to make proposals to access funds from that program. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Regarding the communications equipment, if the SAR groups made a proposal to purchase appropriate communication systems, would they receive assistance or would their recommendations be paid attention to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): I think we are all aware that when an emergency arises, having the proper equipment, including communication systems, is a must. If a proposal is submitted, it would be considered carefully. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Nonetheless, there are many SAR groups in Nunavut, obviously, and if they submit a proposal on communication equipment for their searchers, is there a funding limit to the amount they can request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the emergency management program, we have provided devices like (interpretation ends) SPOT (interpretation) and two-way radios. However, if a search and rescue group wants to order other equipment, then they can do so in a written proposal. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. While on the topic of search and rescue, how will your department disseminate the information outlining this to the search and rescue groups? Will it be in correspondence to every search and rescue group in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. Indeed, it is fine. If we are required to inform the groups, we can provide that notification either through letters or emails directly to the hamlet offices or directly to the search and rescue groups. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. I support all the search and rescue groups throughout Nunavut. I would urge your staff to send this correspondence to the search and rescue groups for their information, as the local groups can identify the issues

related to which group handles the local searches.

To move on to a different subject on the same page, 161, (interpretation ends) Nunavut Emergency Management, (interpretation) is that for an emergency situation happening in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Nunavut Emergency Management (interpretation) mainly deals with planning for emergency situations, (interpretation ends) emergency preparedness plans. (interpretation) We can help the communities in Nunavut in planning for emergencies. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for his response. There are many communities in Nunavut. Do you check with the communities to see if they have updated their equipment just in case there is an emergency? Do you know what needs to be replaced? How do you communicate with the communities to find out about the information? Do you consult them yearly or every two years? How frequently do you consult the communities about their equipment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

asked the communities to document their equipment and also to state or give us a condition rating of the equipment. We have asked for that information so that we can help them update or replace some of their equipment or which ones are just too old or too broken up that can be replaced or repaired. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister may recall, last year, there was a press release and the minister did make, I believe, with the press, some announcements with the Gas Tax Fund's signing. I'm on J-5 on the last paragraph, "management and reporting required under the Gas Tax Fund." How is that information being relayed to municipalities across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The gas tax program is administered through the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. Right now, the gas tax is strictly used for water and wastewater programs. Each community submits a list of funding to Community Development through this advisory committee. They then determine and prioritize the projects that will be allocated to the communities for

upgrades needed to their water and waste management facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for the response. The last sentence on that particular paragraph, "Building Canada Fund and other Federal Infrastructure Programs," can the minister elaborate on those? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. Again, if I may, I defer that question to my deputy minister for elaboration. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the latest update on the New Building Canada Fund is that all departments have submitted a list of projects for consideration in the New Building Canada Fund. They have been ranked and prioritized. There is a list of projects that are being submitted to Infrastructure Canada for consideration. We suspect that we will know within the next three months if those projects will be approved through Infrastructure Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for the response. You can rule me out of order if am out of order on this one.

I believe that Community and Government Services works with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on these federal infrastructure programs. I'm referring to this. Would that include airport matters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. (interpretation ends) That is run through the P3 program. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having reviewed a lot of the correspondence from Baker Lake, in the past, there was a possibility of a P3 project that was about to surface, but somehow it fell through. Would your department take into consideration of discussing this with the Hamlet of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure what my colleague is talking about. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, can you please clarify that for the (interpretation ends) hon. minister.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Before I became an MLA, there was an airport project being planned, but I don't know what happened. It just seemed to have stopped. They did a bunch of studying. I'm just asking if it's anywhere in the radar to come up again in any meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue that the member has raised a question on is that if the hamlet wishes to reapply for that project, they can put it on the capital plan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back a bit to the land plebiscite. The minister stated that someone is going to designate a plebiscite authority. I would just like to ask the minister who is going to decide who the plebiscite authority is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was an issue discussed by the cabinet and we felt that cabinet could make that appointment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, then, the minister is going to recommend that

cabinet decides on who the authority is.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is currently in front of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. EIA is going to decide who the plebiscite authority is, just for clarity. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) EIA will bring that into cabinet and it will be cabinet that will decide who is going to be the plebiscite authority. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard part of the exchange between the minister and Mr. Hickes about who can be the plebiscite authority. I think I heard in there too that cabinet can be. Does that mean that cabinet is going to decide who the authority is, yet cabinet can be the authority? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per the earlier response, any one of the following can be a plebiscite authority: (interpretation ends) the Legislative Assembly, the Commissioner in Executive Council, the Minister of CGS, (interpretation) or (interpretation ends) the Council of Municipal Corporations, for the plebiscite held in that community. (interpretation) Additionally, it includes at this time (interpretation ends) the Department of Justice (interpretation) statement that it would be best for the GN to work through the (interpretation ends) Minister of CGS. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hearing two different things. EIA is going to decide or recommend to cabinet for cabinet to decide and the Department of Justice, which, in theory, is part of cabinet because there's a justice minister in cabinet who is recommending that the minister be the plebiscite authority. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. The cabinet will make the decision as to which department is appointed to head this process. The department has provided their opinion. What they haven't said is that this is how we will play this process out. Cabinet would have to make the decision as to who the ultimate authority will be for this plebiscite. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm bringing this up is because the plebiscite is in 2016, which is not that far away. By the sounds of it, there's a lot of work that has to be done and none of it can start until there's a plebiscite authority picked and chosen. Is there a timeframe of when a plebiscite authority will be...? I don't know if "picked" is the right word, but when is there going to be a decision on who is the plebiscite authority for the land plebiscite? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned earlier, it is very likely that EIA will bring that into cabinet. We are in discussion with them that we would like to see this done sooner than later so that we can start the process with this as soon as possible. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the minister does not speak for EIA, but can he give us a better timeframe of when "sooner than later" is? Is it next week? Next month? Six months? Just a rough idea to us as to when it may happen, but I understand that he does not speak for EIA, so what kind of a timeframe can the minister give us? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, maybe you might want to ask the Premier if he would like to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the hon. member. As indicated in our Full Caucus get-together in Kugluktuk, we wanted to conduct the land plebiscite. As you know, on April 10 of 1995, the first referendum was held. Of course, the majority of the votes of all the communities voted for leasehold arrangements rather than the sale of municipal lands.

Under the land claims agreement, Article 14.8, I believe, the next plebiscite was to be held within 20 years and that timeframe is coming up. It's probably going to be the same questions asked, but at the end of the day, there are a lot of implications, the cost to the government and the cost to homeowners, as brought up earlier. There are some in-depth things that we're going to look at. There are implications.

As a government, we're going to be using the *Plebiscites Act* to have the plebiscite go forth in March of 2016. There is a lot of information and implications that are going to affect homeowners, as indicated earlier, and of course, the municipalities. That's one of the things that we want to clarify with all the government departments, including Justice, and possibly with the committees that the minister has

indicated. There are some consultations that do have to take place.

As a government, we're not allowed to advocate for a yea or nay vote, but at the same time, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has that obligation to push for whatever decision that they may want. As indicated by the minister, there are a lot of implications. Once we have those figured out, we intend to hold a plebiscite in March of 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'nalluavik*, Hon. Premier. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that explanation, but I still didn't hear of when EIA might recommend to cabinet when to pick a plebiscite authority. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, just like everything else in Nunavut, when there are elections or plebiscites or referendums, we use Elections Nunavut. We intend to use that authority to hold our plebiscite. We are working in conjunction with them and of course, a couple of other departments, as I indicated, Justice and of course, CGS and EIA. Once that is established, as I indicated, we intend to hold a plebiscite in March of 2016. According to the land claims article, Article 14, we intend to do that.

Again, I've got to say that there are quite a bit of implications to this plebiscite. As a member had previously stated, homeowners are going to be affected. The majority of Nunavummiut live in public housing and that's one of the things that we want to ensure that we get this right to benefit Nunavummiut.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, there are indications out there that the mining corporations and exploration companies have indicated that it is very difficult to open offices and put in other infrastructure on municipal lands because of uncertainty of the tenure. That is one of the things that we talked about in our Full Caucus discussions in Kugluktuk.

As I indicated, we are hoping that for sure, we will have our plebiscite in March of 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for more of an explanation again and that they're using Elections Nunavut and all that. I would still like to know when EIA is going to recommend to cabinet and cabinet decides who the plebiscite authority is. Until there is a plebiscite authority named, nothing can go forward because the plebiscite authority is the one that will be running the plebiscite. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Maybe I didn't make myself clear, but the authority holding the plebiscite is going to be Elections Nunavut. It's going to be done through the *Plebiscites Act*. We do have a *Plebiscites Act* in Nunavut. They're going to be following the procedures and protocols that are set out in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for clarifying that Elections Nunavut will be the plebiscite authority, but now I'll ask the minister... On his list of people who can be a plebiscite authority, I didn't hear Elections Nunavut in there. Is Elections Nunavut going to be the plebiscite authority? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that we will use the Elections Nunavut guidelines to hold this plebiscite, and I think this what the Premier was indicating earlier. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to dwell on this issue, so I guess I'll just move on, but it seems like no one can answer me when EIA is going to recommend a plebiscite authority. Until there is a plebiscite authority named, nothing can go forward

because that is who is going to decide what the wording of the plebiscite vote will be about. That's my understanding. Am I correct in my understanding? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok. (interpretation) Thank you very much. I apologize. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, we do have the *Plebiscites Act* in Nunavut and Elections Nunavut is a body that usually conducts referendums, plebiscites, elections, and other municipal referendums that might take place, including liquor plebiscites. They are the authority that does that under the *Plebiscites Act*. As I indicated, it's one of the things to do.

As the member may recall, in 1995, there was a simple question that was asked in the plebiscite and the question is probably going to be similar to the 1995 plebiscite held at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to another issue so that the minister may answer it.

One of my colleagues brought up the funding formula for the hamlets and the minister stated that they're reviewing it or might be updating it. Is the current formula per capita based funding for the hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The current formula is based on a financing formula rather than per capita. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how the formula financing works. Would a larger community be funded to the same level as a small community or would a small community have better funding because they don't have to do as much? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. (interpretation) Actually, it is obvious that larger communities receive larger amounts of funding. The smaller communities have a proportionate but smaller amount based on their size. When this question was raised, we had responded as to how the financial arrangements are made. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You stated that you're looking at the new funding formula. Is the current one not adequate that a new funding formula is being anticipated? Have there been complaints that the funding formula is not working out for some of the hamlets or is it just an initiative by the department to look at

the funding formula for the hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, things tend to change and this includes communities and their infrastructure. Further, (interpretation ends) as a department, we're always trying to improve ways of providing funding to the municipalities. (interpretation) We would like to have more time to review these so that we can assist the communities more (interpretation ends) as a government. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on here, about a year ago in February of last year, the department issued a *Request for Information for Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory*. The [RFI] closed on March 28, 2014, almost a year ago. Can the minister tell us what the results were for that request for information report, and when does he expect a final report on that RFI? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe for the technical response, if it's okay with you, I would refer that to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first draft of the strategy was presented to the NAMA meeting in November 2014 for discussion, feedback, and collaboration with municipal ministers. Based on the discussions and feedback from the NAMA meeting, we have now completed the final report for the Water Compliance Working Group to use now to develop short-term, intermediate, and long-term plans to address municipal solid waste sites across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister be tabling this document so that we can all look at the information that is in it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We can certainly provide that information to the member if he so wishes. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I so wish that and that's why I asked if it was going to be tabled. Okay, if you will provide it.

In this report, I don't know what was in there. I assume it makes stuff of how you are going to fix your solid waste

management program. Are there any dollar figures attached to this report on how Nunavut is going to deal with its solid waste management? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If the member is prepared to bear with me, I would be prepared to table the document. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since our meeting is progressing too fast, I would like to return back to this issue. I am confused now after responses to questions raised by the Member for Tununiq on the eligibility criteria for this referendum.

If you live in a community for one year, then you are eligible to vote based on these criteria. I want to ask about Inuit who move to another community to work. Is this the reason or is this to allow southerners who are transient workers who have stayed in Nunavut for one year? Have you included them here? Is that how I understand it? I'm getting confused, so perhaps you can explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current written criteria in the policy state that as long as you have attained the age of 18 and have resided in Nunavut for at least one year, you would become eligible to vote. However, as I stated, our department will conduct a community tour to explain the process and to collect local concerns on the issue. If the majority pushes for changes, changes would be considered and it will open soon. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand your response. During this consultation tour of the government, when they tour the communities, they arrive with decisions already made with no ability to change them. Even when residents fight for change, due to the decisions already having been made, the options are taken away.

Now, with respect to this planned tour, will the focus be on the concerns expressed by the local residents on this momentous event? That is, if you hear that the majority are pushing for specific criteria. Will the department follow through with the wishes of the people? I hope that will be your objective for this community consultation tour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the plan for this consultation tour has that

objective. We will gather the feedback from the communities and will take into consideration the concerns and recommendations expressed at the meetings. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Services. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I just have one quick question on here. I had brought it up a couple of times in the past and actually, the Premier alluded to it, but it's regarding the land plebiscite's cost to homeowners.

One the concerns that I brought up in the past is the cost to transfer a title from a land lease to a fee simple title. To me, overall, especially if there are going to be a couple of limited firms up here that deal with that type of work, the cost shouldn't be exorbitant.

In your query with the Department of Justice, for one, is that topic being discussed and, for two, to make sure that it's not a money grab by the government or any other entity from homeowners in Nunavut in any community that chooses to go to a fee simple title? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that we're currently discussing this with the Department of Justice. If I may, if you could allow my deputy minister to elaborate. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on our discussion with the Department of Justice, if the leases are transferred or if the leases are transferred over to fee simple, basically, the only cost associated would be the administration cost to transfer them from a lease to a fee simple. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion

on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Hickes. The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of meetings for tomorrow morning, there is a meeting of the Regular Caucus at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom, and at ten o'clock, there is a meeting of the Management and Services Board in the same room, Tuktu.

Orders of the Day for March 3:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 18
21. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Tuesday, March 3, 2015,
at 1:30.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:51*

