



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 3

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Pages 100 – 158

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok

(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak

(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak

(Aivilik)

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for Immigration

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

George Hickes

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

David Joanasic

(South Baffin)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Paul Quassa

(Aggu)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 22, 2015

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Joe Enook)

(interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shooyook. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Premier Taptuna, Ministers, and Members, welcome to the House.

Moving on in the orders of the day, the first item is Ministers' Statements. Premier Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 006 – 4(3):
Suicide Crisis in Nunavut

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, colleagues,

(interpretation) members, and residents of Kugluktuk and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today, we address an issue that has been affecting our territory far too long. There is not a Member of this House or a family in Nunavut that has not been affected by suicide.

The recent coroner's inquest and the subsequent recommendations have resonated across Nunavut and throughout Canada.

Our family, like many families, was touched by the personal and heart-wrenching testimonies at the inquest. I want to thank every individual that appeared before the inquest to present their constructive views.

Mr. Speaker, swift action needs to be taken now so that we can:

- Better share information between partners;
- Further engage with youth;
- Provide the relevant people with adequate training; and
- Strengthen our programs to better prevent people from taking away their own life.

Mr. Speaker, today, we declare suicide as a crisis in Nunavut. Overwhelmingly, Nunavummiut are saying we need to do more at the senior government level, at the hamlet level, at the local level, and at the family level. Precious lives should not be lost. We have heard the recommendation loud and clear. To that end, we have struck a special cabinet committee that is mandated to follow and implement recommendations from the coroner's inquest.

Suicide is a result of a complex series of factors that are both personal and connected to wider social influences. There is no single reason why someone may try to end their life, but in large part, this is preventable.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee is going to be led and chaired by the Minister of Health and includes the ministers of housing, education and family services, as well as myself. This committee is cross-sectional, as no single department can take sole responsibility.

To support the work of the cabinet committee, an associate deputy minister will be appointed in the coming days to specifically direct and coordinate cross-departmental initiatives. The position will feed into and work with our partners, NGOs, hamlets, and various government departments. Shared responsibility is essential if we are to have any chance of success.

The immediate task ahead for the associate deputy on suicide is to manage and outline, with the Minister of Health, new monies and a costing process to identify the needed funds, new staffing positions and recruitment efforts, along with new program dollars, training programs, and supports to implement the inquest recommendations, as well as support the broader suicide strategy. The Minister of Health will bring those costed and analyzed requests to the House in the winter session.

These new dollars will be base funded within the budgets of the lead departments, who are on the frontline to implement recommendations from the inquest. These new funds will directly

assist the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, and cross-governmental programs that work to reduce suicide risk factors and reinforce prevention efforts. There will be more funding supports included for frontline workers and organizations, as well as government departments that deal with the issue every day.

We will ensure that the ASIST training continues and is broadened in delivery. We will also enhance supports to groups and non-profits like the Embrace Life Council, the Help Line, and for local community support agencies. We will also continue to support other government programs, such as the RespectEd programming in schools.

Today's commitment aims to support a range of initiatives that directly and indirectly contribute to reducing risk factors for suicide and aiding in prevention. We need to also enhance the mental, physical, and domestic health of Nunavummiut. This approach absolutely requires collective action with communities, families, and outside partners.

Mr. Speaker, we need to place families at the centre of service delivery. This means better integration of health, education, housing, family services, and of our external partners to improve outcomes and results for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all our partners to continue to work with us and take action. There has been some positive progress, and there is no denying there is room to improve. We must all stand together to end suicide in Nunavut.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Premier Taptuna. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. Minister Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 007 – 4(3):
Response to Suicide Inquest**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's suicide inquest ended three weeks ago. I thank the chief coroner for undertaking the inquest and the jurors for accepting their challenging task.

As some of you know, I lost my older brother to suicide when I was 13. I was traumatized. Years later, as I contemplated suicide, it was my older sister Ida who saved me with her love.

We all have a role in suicide prevention. Members will recall in February of this year, we allocated an additional \$5 million to staff the Mental Health Transition Home in Cambridge Bay, adequately fund out-of-territory treatment, and place psychiatric nurses in Qikiqtarjuaq, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, and Grise Fiord/Resolute Bay. Currently, design work is being undertaken to renovate an existing building in Rankin Inlet for the addition of beds in the Kivalliq. Public consultations on the *Mental Health Act* will begin this fall to ensure the bill incorporates Inuit societal values and builds on the successes of local organizations.

While clinical services are being added, the jury made a number of recommendations to streamline decision-

making processes and cooperation between departments and agencies to put the client first. To that end, a new cabinet committee on quality of life has been formed to demonstrate cabinet's commitment and to focus the work of departments, with the support of an associate deputy minister for quality of life.

Many of my colleagues and I will be taking an Uqaqatigiilluk! ASIST workshop in November. As Members of this Legislative Assembly, we are each committed to doing our part in prevention and reducing the stigma.

I am honoured to be assuming the role of Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention. I'm here today and, in my sister's memory, I want to give Nunavummiut words of hope. Surround yourself with loved ones. There are many. Spend time on the land learning our ways from our elders. Challenge yourself and the system by getting an education. It is the reason I got a law degree. Believe in tomorrow for a brighter future for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Ministers' Statements. Minister Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 008 – 4(3):
RespectEd Programming in
Schools**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the recent suicide inquest has reminded us of the importance of working with staff to expand their ability to support students to handle life's challenges with resilience.

We are continuing our three-year partnership with the Red Cross. Together, we have trained 606 teachers in RespectEd healthy relationships and violence prevention; 240 teachers are from the Qikiqtani, 190 from the Kivalliq, and 92 from the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, a team travelled to Hall Beach last week to do RespectEd training with 35 youth. The team was also able to provide suicide intervention, prevention, and postvention support. This life-enhancing support is about hope, help, and healing. As a result of the training, the youth did some community planning and the hamlet committed to putting in place some land-based and skill development activities.

As a result of receiving RespectEd training this September, Igloolik made a school plan to promote a bullying-free environment. Gjoa Haven has been using the information since their training in early 2014. Baker Lake trained two counsellors in 2013 and they have been using the material in the school wherever they can. In Kugaaruk, the staff are using the material regularly with students and have trained a group of youth facilitators. Taloyoak is using the activities in elementary schools. Rankin Inlet has incorporated bullying-prevention and healthy relationships for the past three years into school programming.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to continuing our partnership with the Red

Cross to deliver the RespectEd training in all Nunavut communities in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Ministers' Statements. There being none, we will move on with the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 024 – 4(3): Healthy Workplaces in the Public Service

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of fostering healthy workplaces in the public service. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that I have addressed on many occasions in this House, and it is one that has been receiving increasing amounts of public awareness and attention.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, I have a significant number of constituents who work for our territorial government. I want to take this time to salute their hard work and dedication to making Nunavut a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, the government's new Human Resource Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014, almost a year ago. This strategy contains many important goals with which I completely agree: "increasing and enhancing Inuit employment," "implementing the Ethics Officer function," and building a "respectful and

productive workplace.” Mr. Speaker, how could anyone disagree with any of these goals? The question is whether or not we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, since being elected as the MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, I have been both surprised and disturbed at the number of GN employees who have come directly to me to resolve issues that are happening in their workplaces. It is my practice to never turn away a person seeking help, so I have spent many hours listening to the concerns that many of them have expressed to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that the structure and system that we have in place for resolving workplace conflicts and employee grievances simply is not working well.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have spoken about such issues as the need to end nepotism and favouritism in the hiring process. I believe that these things are wrong, wherever they occur and no matter who is involved or whatever their background.

Mr. Speaker, one of the major structural changes that were made before we were elected to the current Legislative Assembly was the dissolution of the standalone Department of Human Resources and the distribution of its functions and personnel to other departments.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement today.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement today. Are there any nays?

I didn't hear any nays. Ms. Angnakak, please proceed.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves some tough questions. Why was this change made? Has it accomplished the goals for which it was made? In solving some problems, has it created new problems that are actually worse?

Mr. Speaker, we remember that one of the main concerns with the previous structure was the length of time that it took to fill vacant positions, I believe almost 300 days. I'm not convinced that the new structure has fundamentally fixed this problem, and I can see other areas in which things have gone backwards.

Mr. Speaker, by dividing the department's functions and personnel between different entities, it has lost focus. Training and development are in one area, but staffing is in another area. These things are fundamentally linked, and I will continue to push for this matter to be reconsidered before the end of our term.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, I have spent many hours listening to the concerns and frustrations of individual employees who are involved in situations of workplace bullying, harassment, or other conflict.

As elected legislators, we are told that it is important for us to refrain from trying to directly interfere or meddle in the management of the government's workforce so as to avoid politicizing human resources matters. After all,

that's why we hire managers and that's why we pay them well.

Mr. Speaker, the people who are coming to our offices in increasing numbers tell us that they have nowhere else to go. Mr. Speaker, I will freely acknowledge that I don't necessarily have the magic wand to address these issues today. However, I think that we can make a step in the right direction by not pretending that things are just fine and that anyone who complains is simply a troublemaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to make it clear that I am by no way advocating in favour of workplaces with no rules or no consequences for poor performance, absenteeism, or other behaviour that is unacceptable. What I am saying is that the system and process that we have for resolving disputes, conflicts, and grievances has to have the trust and confidence of its participants, and that trust and confidence is currently lacking.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I asked a lot of questions about the importance of appointing our new ethics officer in a timely manner. Although I am not yet convinced that the position has all of the necessary tools and authorities to be effective, we will need to look at his first report to our Assembly in a very careful way. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my friend across the floor that this is one report that had better be tabled on time.

Mr. Speaker, we can divide our public service into a number of categories. We have unionized employees who pay dues to a union to represent their interests in grievances and other matters. Although I have heard concerns that this representation may not be as effective as it should be, this is something that

people can and should address directly when it comes to electing their representatives. It's like being an MLA. If we don't perform, our voters will find someone else who will.

Mr. Speaker, the bulk of the concerns that have been brought directly to me involves casual employees and excluded employees. We are told that the government has various conflict resolution directives in place and we are told that the government's employee relations function will resolve problems that arise. However, it appears clear to me that these approaches are not working well.

Mr. Speaker, I sense a lack of confidence in the people to whom I talk about the effectiveness of the investigative process, and it is my understanding that there are relatively few staff in place to carry out this type of work.

Mr. Speaker, I go back again to structure, and I want to urge all of us to be open to thinking about such ideas as bringing all of the government's human resources functions into one place in the form of an independent public service commission that can do its work without interference.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that I have been talking publicly about the situation facing casual employees, a lot of whom are single Inuit mothers.

Again, many of my colleagues have spoken on many occasions about the need to address the government's overreliance on casual staffing.

It's very clear to me that casuals are the most vulnerable of our employees and that they have relatively few of the protections that unionized or indeterminate employees have.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my statement, I talked about the issues of nepotism and favouritism. Hardly a day goes past when I don't hear a concern about how the casual hiring system is still being used to circumvent competitive, merit-based hiring that respects Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and recognizes the contributions of long-term northerners, regardless of their background.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to raise this issue in the House and I thank you and my colleagues for their patience today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 025 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Ms. Kaviok**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a resident of my community who recently received a Nunasi scholarship.

Melinda Kaviok is currently enrolled in her third year of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. In addition to being a student, Ms. Kaviok is a mother of six and an active member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Nunasi scholarships are awarded to Nunavut beneficiaries enrolled in post-secondary education programs to recognize leadership, academic excellence, volunteerism, and community involvement.

Some of Ms. Kaviok's notable volunteer services to the community include organizing events for youth, organizing fundraisers for families in need, participating in the local recycling program, and dedicating her time to support and mentor youth.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kaviok is a role model for her family, friends, colleagues, and fellow residents of Arviat. I commend her for committing her time and dedicated effort to her own studies, her family, and her community.

I believe that this scholarship has been well awarded and I look forward to hearing about Ms. Kaviok's future accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Melinda Kaviok for her many accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 026 – 4(3):
Suicide Crisis Deserves Urgent
Attention**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have anything written down. I would just like to say "thank you" to the ministers that are starting to battle

against suicide. I, too, have lost a family member, my eldest son, to suicide. It touches home. It seems like it happened yesterday. He would have been in his mid-30s.

The government is always looking for funding for departments. The past federal government, if I can say so, Mr. Speaker, has been looking for a man who is no longer walking on the earth and who knows how much money they spent on that. I am happy that they found the person on behalf of Gjoa Haven, but there is money there that they can give to such a cause as suicide, and maybe they can match the funds that they gave while looking for the boat.

I don't know what else I can say, but I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 027 – 4(3):
Integrating Inuit
Qaujimajatuqangit into
Government Initiatives**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to say that on November 19, 2013, the first sitting day of this Legislative Assembly, I made a commitment to use my role as an elected representative to lobby the government to integrate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into its legislation and operations. Since that date, I have raised concerns that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has not been integrated into the government's programs, services, and operations.

I recognize that the government has taken steps to add *Inuit*

Qaujimajatuqangit principles into a number of its written policies and legislation. However, in my view, these principles are not reflected in the government's current day-to-day decisions and actions.

On September 23 of this year, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing to review the annual reports of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, which has the mandate to advise departments on the best approaches for integrating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into government initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 028 – 4(3):
Pangnirtung Search and Rescue
Volunteers**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Pangnirtung.

I rise today to state on behalf of the residents of Pangnirtung that this past summer and spring was different because personally, I have never seen that much ice in Pangnirtung before. You could not travel anywhere for a long time. Today, the multi-year ice is still there.

For that reason, as an MLA for Pangnirtung, I would like to show my

appreciation for the hard work of the search and rescue group and their volunteers during extreme ice conditions. There had to be searches and rescues. Those who take care of such things in Pangnirtung are the search and rescue group and the auxiliary unit, and Peter Kilabuk, former MLA for Pangnirtung, is the coordinator and we thank them all. They were provided good assistance with icebreakers and sometimes from the army.

When people who are lost are saved, it's a very happy occasion. The searchers put themselves in danger, but they perform their duties. I thank the residents of Pangnirtung who always help out with fundraising for search and rescue operations. I thank the people of Pangnirtung and I want you to thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 029 – 4(3):
Recognition of Tusarvik School's
Staff and Students**

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the staff and students of Tusarvik School in Naujaat for taking part in the Embrace Life activities this past month.

Mr. Speaker, National Suicide Prevention Week took place from September 7 to 15 of this year. During that week, students and staff at the Tusarvik School held and participated in a number of activities to bring the

community's focus to the celebration of life.

Tusarvik School also held a community walk on September 18 to provide all Naujaarmiut with the opportunity to participate in this celebration. Attendees included representatives from the local RCMP detachment, the community's justice committee, and the local health centre.

Mr. Speaker, the students and staff of Tusarvik School have been taking this approach for the past four years, signifying the school's commitment to taking positive approaches to challenging issues.

Over the past few months, the media has highlighted the challenges that the government and various organizations continue to face in relation to suicide prevention. While it is important for our territory to address this issue at all levels of society, we must not forget the profound influence that each community has within itself.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the organizations and schools that are taking the initiative to promote and celebrate life within their communities, providing inspiration and support amongst their peers and fellow Nunavummiut.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the students and staff at Tusarvik School for demonstrating the importance of celebrating life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 030 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Premier's Visit**

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) First of all, (interpretation) I would like to express my appreciation to (interpretation ends) the cabinet members for coming up with a concrete and tangible action to deal with the issue of suicide. I thank you for that. I am sure that Nunavummiut are very happy to hear news like that. That is one course of action that I think this House will support wholeheartedly.

(interpretation) I would also like to thank (interpretation ends) Premier Peter Taptuna (interpretation) for being able to come to Chesterfield Inlet in the last few days. He went to Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, and then he went to Chesterfield Inlet. The Premier and his officials were informed about the concerns and issues of those communities, especially Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. The residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet conversed with our Premier, and he was very open to talk with ordinary residents and to hear their concerns. We were very appreciative of that.

(interpretation ends) On behalf of my two communities, I would like to express my appreciation for the Premier and his party for visiting my constituency, and I would like to thank you for the time that you took to tour the two communities and learn what the concerns and issues are from my

constituency. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 031 – 4(3):
Opening of New Health Centre in
Taloyoak**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my community and residents of Kugaaruk, my mother, my siblings, my older sisters, my brothers, and my children.

At the beginning of September, there were visitors from the Department of Health and the Minister of CGS, Minister Mike. I would like to thank them and we appreciate the high amount of infrastructure being provided to the health centre and being able to provide training for the jobs because we have to start taking care of our fellow residents.

I expect good jobs to come out of that. I know there are Inuit there in lower positions. They have to be involved in higher positions. I just wanted to show my appreciation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 032 – 4(3):
Waste Drop and Swap in Iqaluit**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the Speaker's Chair, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Hickes: I would just like to first start off with a brief... There is a Waste Reduction Week exercise being held by the City of Iqaluit. It is a paint drop-and-swap where you can drop off all your old cleaning chemicals, electronic waste, and batteries on Saturday, October 24 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the blue city garage at the four corners.

What I would like to stand and recognize today is we've got a grade 5 and 6 class from École des Trois-Soleils here in Iqaluit joining us today. I know we've had some serious statements being made today, so I wanted to add a bit of levity where we've got some fine students. Most of these children have been born here in Nunavut.

Included in the class is my daughter, Sara. We had our federal and municipal elections recently. My daughter, Sara, ran for class president and was successful at the start of her political career, Mr. Speaker.

I'm sure the House will recognize them as individuals when we get to the appropriate time, but I wanted to really welcome them. We did a tour last week so they could get to know some of the understandings of the House procedures and now they get to see us in action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 033 – 4(3):
Appreciation for Support for
Barrieau Family**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to all the people who are in attendance or listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, a short while ago, a long-time resident of the community of Kimmirut, Mr. Bobby Barrieau, passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks and appreciation to all those who provided donations and support to enable Bobby's children to travel to be with him in his final days.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions for Kitty and Bobby Barrieau were many. A bake sale was held in Iqaluit. A young girl donated two airline tickets to Ottawa that she had won in a draw. And a number of online fundraisers raised significant funds.

Mr. Speaker, it is very heartwarming to see this kind of support and I know that the family appreciated it very much. Again, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed to this worthy cause. We would like to see that when Inuit are going through a hardship. If we help each other, it is good. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

>> *Applause*

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Members' Statements. I don't have any more names on the list. We will move on with our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Quassa.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Welcome to the precinct. Moving on with our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

>> *Laughter*

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I stand today with some members here again, my colleague, MLA Hickey, briefly mentioned it, but I want to go a little bit further.

The grade 5 and 6 students from École des Trois-Soleils have been studying consensus government this fall and closely following the municipal and federal elections. I would like to recognize their teacher, Lise Boiteau, and their teaching assistant is Stephanie Bonsaint. The children are very excited to be here today and again, their names are... Maybe when I call your name, you can stand up for recognition.

- Manon Roos-Remillard
- Amelia Mike-Mathieu
- Cassidy Devereaux
- Kara Campbell
- Rocco Canil
- Felix Moore
- Isabelle Rafter, and last but not least,
- Sara Hickey.

(interpretation) I wanted to recognize these students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 025 – 4(3): Improving Medical Travel Services

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, a constituent family recently approached me with a serious concern regarding an elder travelling on medical travel who became stranded at an airport in the Kivalliq. Out of respect for the family's privacy, I will not identify them in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that on occasion, flights are delayed or even cancelled and that this is not the fault of the government. However, our medical travel services must be prepared to look out for the special needs of medical clients, especially elders or others with chronic health issues, when situations such as this arise.

Can the minister describe what procedures are undertaken by the departmental staff to ensure that medical travel clients who become stranded during transit are given the support and assistance that they need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any patient that is going out on medical travel is given a sheet of paper stating that if there are going to be any delays or cancellations, they're given a number they can call to get help and support, whether they're going out or returning home from medical travel. The Department of Health provides that information so that they can provide support to the patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that there is a patient relations office where people can submit their complaints about medical services. However, I also believe that our government should be making an effort to make sure that these types of situations do not occur in the first place.

Can the minister describe what steps are taken to ensure that medical travel clients, especially elders or unilingual Nunavummiut, are provided with clear information regarding who to contact to receive assistance when they become stranded, through no fault of their own, during their medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Every patient who travels on

medical travel is given a sheet of paper with a toll-free number where they can call in the event of any change in their travel plans to call the number so that they can receive some assistance from the Department of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that changes in airline schedules resulting from the recent codesharing agreement between First Air and Canadian North may also impact medical travel services in Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on how his department, which administers the government's medical travel contracts, is working with the airlines to ensure that the schedule changes do not worsen the risk of passengers becoming stranded during medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We appreciate the comments that are provided to us and we pass those on to the airlines and explain that these are not acceptable, that the services that are offered in some situations need to improve. We have ongoing discussions with all airlines to make sure that the services that are being provided to our patients are to the highest standard possible. Our discussions continue.

My officials met with the airlines in early October to express our concerns on what has been happening so far. We will continue to work with the airlines to make sure that the services that are being offered are the best they can be to our patients. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 026 – 4(3): Update on Capital Plan for Francophone School

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question today for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services. It's an opportune moment as I'm going to be talking about École des Trois-Soleils.

In March earlier this year, we got an update on the \$2 million that was approved in last year's fiscal budget to do preplanning studies. Included in that preplanning study intended to improve capital project delivery through more comprehensive planning prior to being considered for cabinet approval is an addition to École des Trois-Soleils.

In that correspondence, it had the preplanning phase that would be completed by April of 2016. I would like to get confirmation from the minister whether that date is still valid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I'll take the question as notice because if that's the case, I'll be able to get back to the member with clear information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. I'll move on. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 027 – 4(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit and the Tuttarviit Committee

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, on the day that the government announced the establishment of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit, it also announced the establishment of the Tuttarviit committee.

On March 24, 2003, the minister of the day tabled the original terms of reference for Tuttarviit. According to these terms of reference, Tuttarviit is a committee comprised of representatives from each department with the mandate to consider the recommendations of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit for implementation within their respective departments.

Can the minister indicate if the terms of reference for the Tuttarviit committee have been revised since that date and, if so, will he commit to tabling the most recent terms of reference in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow Nunavummiut.

I would like to thank the member for asking a good question. In regard to the member’s question, the Tuttarviit committee is an interdepartmental committee that deals with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and they meet bi-weekly.

If I understood his other question, whether we have revised the terms of reference, I don’t have that information in front of me, so I can’t respond to the second question. However, the Tuttarviit committee is going very well within our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. Can the minister indicate if every government department currently has a representative on the Tuttarviit committee and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I don’t want to respond without really understanding the question. Maybe he can rephrase his question. I’m sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, please clarify your question so that the minister can respond properly. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. Can the minister indicate if every government department currently has a representative on the Tuttarviit committee? That was my question. If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for rephrasing his question. We have various departments that have representatives on the Tuttarviit committee, if I understood his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the terms of reference for each committee, the director of Culture and Heritage’s Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Division provides administrative support for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and serves as chairperson on Tuttarviit.

Can the minister indicate what other positions in his department, if any, are designated to provide support to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit?

Mr. Speaker, at the time when we had a hearing with the committee, we understood that they didn’t have their terms of reference and that *Inuit*

Qaujimajatuqangit is not recognized in this House.

As the Minister of Culture and Heritage, I urge you to set up the terms of reference for each of these committees for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* so that they can have daily operations within the government. It is something that I am very passionate about and would like to see it implemented.

Could you ask for monies so that we can have a division dedicated to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and the Tuttarviit committee? Could you work with the Department of Finance to set aside some funds? You have the power to create a division within your department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that good question. Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question correctly, the member is requesting that we provide funds to create a division to work on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and to implement *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within the government. I will have discussions with my deputy minister and the department and if possible, I will provide a response to your question before the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 028 – 4(3): Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to question the Minister of Environment again.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was questioning the minister on the total allowable harvest about the disputed numbers and as the minister is aware, the polar bear hunting season is coming up in Arviat and other Kivalliq communities. I believe that the TAH has not been issued, so there are no polar bear tags released. I am asking the minister if he can release, if he has not, the 24 tags for the western Hudson Bay, as I believe that number is not in dispute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. The 24 tags are not disputed. I will have to inform the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board about the total allowable harvest, but from what I know, there are 24 tags available. Mr. Speaker, that is the only response I can provide. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he believes these tags are released. I would like the minister to make sure that these tags are released and are available to the RWOs and HTOs because my understanding is that they have not been

released to the RWOs and HTOs for the western Hudson Bay. Can he confirm that these tags are available for hunting as of today? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they haven't received the tags, I will look into it and make sure that they do receive the tags. I will look into it and make sure that they do have the tags and if they don't have them, then you can ask me further questions at a later date. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for absolute clarity then, the minister is going to check that these tags are available for hunting as of immediately and that these tags should be and are released to the RWOs and HTOs and if they're not available for hunting immediately, that they will be. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my earlier statement, I will make sure that those tags are available and if they're not available, I'll make sure that they are. There are 24 tags that should be made available immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 029 – 4(3): Status of Government of Nunavut Operational Audit

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

One of the major commitments that was included in the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate statement was that the government should undertake a comprehensive review of its programs to "determine what is working well, what needs improvement, and what we should stop doing." Can the Premier update us today on the status of the government's operational audit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the operational audit has been ongoing. As I indicated in a letter to her, the status of the operational audit is that we're awaiting the final report for the first phase of the audit and we expect that immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An important part of this work is the objective of "ensuring that recipients of Government of Nunavut funds are providing the outcomes we expect from our investment." Can the Premier describe how the operational audit process is measuring and

evaluating the extent to which we are getting “bang for our buck” when it comes to contributions to different organizations and programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The operational audit will identify that because that’s one of the things that was lacking in the past. We want to ensure that money spent on programs, towards contributions, and other various programs’ funding to the communities has had an actual result. There’s a corporation that does that very well by creating jobs, recording the number of jobs, part time and full time. Mr. Speaker, we intend to ensure to the public and the members across here that the investments we make on programs actually benefit Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response, but I didn’t really get about how they’re going to evaluate. I will go on to my next and final question.

As the Premier is well aware, I have strongly urged the government to take a hard look at the impact that the elimination of the standalone Department of Human Resources has had on our public service. It’s no secret that I have raised a number of concerns about how this structural change has impacted our government’s progress in

such areas as Inuit employment and employee relations.

Will the Premier commit to ensuring that the government’s “operational review” initiative specifically considers the benefits of re-establishing a standalone Department of Human Resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. As I indicated, we’re reviewing our programs and I will certainly be speaking with my colleagues on that particular side of the question about the Department of Human Resources. We have changed it in the past. There’s no reason why we can’t find ways to improve it and we will certainly look at ways to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 030 – 4(3): Status of New Rankin Inlet Arena

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) The government’s new five-year capital plan was publicly released yesterday when the Minister of Finance introduced the 2016-17 capital estimates.

The residents of Rankin Inlet have been waiting patiently for construction on the community's much anticipated new arena to begin. I am very proud to have been a strong supporter of this project, which will contribute significantly to the community and to the entire Kivalliq region.

For the record, can the minister confirm when construction is scheduled to start on the new arena? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. At this time, the new arena in Rankin Inlet is at the planning stage. We are currently working on the location of the new arena. I'm sure that it's going to become too small some time in the near future. It's at the planning stage right at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm that the government is investing over \$23 million in Rankin Inlet's new arena? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you for that question. It's going to be a little over \$23 million. About \$25

million is going to be invested in the new arena for Rankin Inlet. That's from the beginning of the construction to the end. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Also, can the minister confirm what discussions have been taking place between his department and local municipal leaders in Rankin Inlet concerning the design of the facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is currently at the planning stage. We are looking at altering the design. We are going to be putting out an RFP for the design phase. It's going to be constructed not too long from now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 031 – 4(3): Addressing Homelessness

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister (interpretation ends) responsible for Homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I received a very touching letter from a constituent who, in raising their concern about homelessness in the community of Rankin Inlet, also

proposed a solution. They noted that there are a number of unused and unoccupied buildings all across the community of Rankin Inlet which could be used as temporary housing.

Can the minister clarify whether strategies for addressing homelessness in Nunavut have considered using vacant buildings as temporary shelters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question regarding homelessness. The poverty reduction committee is holding meetings on homelessness. My staff is listening. When we receive a letter or a copy of a letter, we will deal with the issue, but we have to wait for the letter first to reach our department. We can factor in or consider the possibility of using unoccupied buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My constituent is rightfully worried about the many homeless individuals and even families who are wandering the streets hoping that someone will let them into their home for a night or two.

Can the minister inform this House what the current numbers of homeless people in Nunavut are? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. During the past summer, the poverty reduction committee did a survey by calling the communities, asking about people who are living in tents, that are not living in actual houses, and the number we received was 98. They get counted after a certain number of months have passed for us to keep track of how many homeless people there are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cold and dark days and nights of winter are coming. Will the minister commit to looking into the possibility of using vacant buildings, such as the unused FOL military base in Rankin Inlet, to provide temporary shelter for those who desperately need it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. Yes, the Department of Family Services' poverty reduction committee has the following practice. If a group or a hamlet wants to manage an initiative like that, our department is open to discussions. However, this would require adequate oversight. If the group is approved for this initiative, we would have to approach the Department of Finance to

budget the operational funds for this project.

I would like to meet with my colleague to talk about homelessness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 032 – 4(3): Status of Department of Health’s Independent External Review

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

Mr. Speaker, almost exactly one year ago, on November 6, 2014, the Minister of Health announced that an independent external review would be conducted into the death of a Cape Dorset infant. While it took some time for that review to get underway, it has been ongoing.

Can the minister provide an update on when he will be tabling the results and recommendations of the independent external review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. The review has been travelling. It went to Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, and they have held meetings with staff in Iqaluit as well. I would like to acknowledge the representative because he went on the radio with the reviewer. The person has

started putting the report and recommendations together, but it is not completed yet. I should have the final draft at the end of November. The work continues today and we know that we will have to do more work after we see the report coming out of this review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the recommendations of the independent external review may suggest changes to the department’s current policies in health centre operations.

Can the minister inform this House what immediate actions the department has taken or will be taking as a result of the independent external review being completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven’t received the recommendations yet, so I cannot really respond as to what we will be doing. However, we will be ready and available for it and we know that we will need to correct or revise some of our policies because we try to be open to everybody when it comes to health. After the review is done, we will be open for any changes that are needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Cape

Dorset, especially the parents of the young infant who died, continue to seek answers. Will the minister commit to visiting the community of Cape Dorset to present the results of the independent external review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that it's difficult to say if we will continue to be ministers. If I get approved to continue to be minister, I will want to go and be a part of that visit to Cape Dorset to present the results because we will need to properly report to the parents of that young infant as to what we found. We have to be more open in this instance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 033 – 4(3): Settlement
between NTI and the Federal
Government**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are directed to the Premier.

In the spring of this year, a settlement was reached between the federal government and NTI regarding the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. As part of the settlement, the federal government agreed to pay just over \$255 million, of which \$175 million will be used for providing training to Inuit to help fulfill the requirements of Article 23.

Mr. Speaker, an important part of the agreement is the establishment of a new Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation, which will have seven directors, two of whom are appointed by the Government of Nunavut. Earlier today, the government and NTI announced that the Premier himself and the Minister of Education will represent the government on this new entity.

Can the Premier describe what the Nunavut Inuit Training Corporation's immediate priorities will be over the next 12 months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we haven't had our initial discussions on that yet for our first meeting that is scheduled for next month. With that, although our terms of reference are already completed, at the end of the day, once we have our initial meeting with the other board members or other directors of the corporation, we will have a set path.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this is targeting Article 23 and we want to find ways to have more Inuit working in both governments, not just within the territorial government but also the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response and

I'll look forward to seeing further activities from that corporation.

Another part of the settlement agreement is a requirement for the federal government to complete a new Nunavut Inuit labour force analysis in close consultation with NTI and the Government of Nunavut. Can the Premier update us today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I have the initial reports on the status of how that's going to be going and moving forward, I'll certainly bring the information to the member across there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the settlement was agreed to earlier this year in spring, maybe just an initial observation is it doesn't seem like there has been a lot of activity or consultation. I'll just ask one final question.

Another part of the settlement is a requirement for the federal government and the territorial government to, and I quote, "each establish a central Inuit employment and training coordination office." Can the Premier update us today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, we haven't had

our first meeting yet and that's scheduled for next month. Once we have that with our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, we will certainly be moving forward on these files, including the establishment of training centres, among other things. Mr. Speaker, this work is ongoing. It's not like it has been sitting there. We've had all our officials working on this since the agreement was signed in May and it's ongoing. Once we establish an action plan, we will certainly be sharing that with the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 034 – 4(3): The Need for Addiction Services

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

Mr. Speaker, in my previous life, before I became an MLA, I was very involved in addictions and counselling. There is a desperate need for addictions services all across our territory as well as in the community of Baker Lake.

Can the minister clarify what specific addictions services are currently available to the residents of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this day, I can say that we reached agreements with

hamlet councils in the communities. There are only six we have agreed with so far and they are Clyde River, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat. We have reached agreements with their hamlets and we support them and they have workers that help people with addictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that addictions and substance abuse issues are critical right across the territory. Can the minister clarify what addiction treatment services are available for Nunavut residents who are unable to overcome their addictions with counselling and guidance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Services have not stopped. I would like to inform you that after the people did the review, they directed the government to put together a plan for suicide prevention. That will be included in the work that is done with addictions services and we will see how it goes in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

understand that the Department of Health has offered a mobile treatment program in different communities and will be offering certain mental health services in Cambridge Bay.

Has the minister given any further consideration to providing permanent addictions treatment services in every Nunavut community or establishing one larger addictions treatment facility here in the territory to provide services for all Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be dealing with that in the upcoming year. My colleagues will be preparing answers. I can't tell you exactly how we are going to answer this question, but addictions will be a part of it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 035 – 4(3): Overdue Departmental Reports

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

On May 27 of this year, the minister tabled the government's quarterly report on Inuit employment for the period ending December 31, 2014.

As of today, we have not seen any quarterly employment reports for the first nine months of this year. Can you

tell us why they are so late? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, we like to table accurate information and there were some concerns with the accuracy of the information, so we had to correct it and then the timing of taking it to cabinet for approval was an issue, as well as the timing and coordination of the sittings.

What we have recently had approval to do is post the reports on our website so that we don't have to wait for cabinet approval and then tabling in the House, so that there would be more timely reporting of those reports throughout the year. Also, we will be tabling the annual reports when they're complete so that we don't have to go to cabinet to get approval. That hopefully should speed up the process and alleviate Ms. Angnakak's concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. It leads me to my next question about the annual report. I want to ask him why the annual report is so late as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. We're experiencing some technical difficulties. The interpreters are not able to hear the audio. We will take a five-minute break while it is being fixed.

>>*House recessed at 15:13 and resumed at 15:34*

Speaker: Mr. Premier, ministers, (interpretation) and members, I'm sorry, but we were experiencing some technical difficulties. I believe it has now been fixed and we can proceed.

Ms. Angnakak, we had to go on a break while you were asking your first supplementary question. I will ask that you repeat your first supplementary question and we will go from there. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's 2013-14 annual report on the public service was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 17, 2015, and that was almost a full year after the end of the fiscal year. The 2014-15 annual report is nowhere to be seen. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us why these reports are so late. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for asking the question. Mr. Speaker, that particular report isn't a statutorily required report. I am aware that we are up to date on all our statutory reports as of the tabling of the outstanding reports in May.

The report that Ms. Angnakak is referring to is traditionally tabled in the winter sitting and that's what we're on track to do in our winter sitting of 2016. I could possibly ask my department to speed up the process and maybe table it in the fall of 2016 after this current fiscal

year going forward, but that leads to inaccuracies and other issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. It could be very cumbersome trying to get reports in on time.

If I am not mistaken, these reports were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on a much timelier basis when the government had a standalone Department of Human Resources that had the time and the resources to focus on a clear mandate.

Would the minister acknowledge that the elimination of the Department of Human Resources has had a negative impact in a significant number of areas, including accountability to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been listening fairly intently to Ms. Angnakak's speeches, questions, and reading the online posts that are very negative and nasty about the very hard-working employees in all government departments in Nunavut. When Ms. Angnakak has come to me with her issues on behalf of constituents, of course, she has discussed that there are two sides to the story. Usually, when she comes, I check out the information and I get back. There are two sides to the story. It is very difficult in this government to manage. You've got the

chain of command, you've got the ministers, the deputies, the directors, and you've got the staff and then the poor managers and supervisors in the middle.

Mr. Speaker, back in 2010, the Auditor General of Canada issued a report on the Department of Human Resources. It was a very hard, scathing report, we all felt. We had been hearing issues about the human resources department for many years. I remember asking the questions to HR ministers over the years when I was MLA.

The government at the time chose to do... I was the Minister of Finance and we looked at a restructuring of the Government of Nunavut. It took two years and there were a lot of consultations. Ms. Angnakak was an executive assistant and she is well aware of the work that went into it. A recommendation was to dissolve the Department of Human Resources and put some of the department in Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and then the rest in Finance.

Every government department has a human resources person now. I personally feel that things are improving. I have seen the issues as an MLA. I have seen the reports. As the minister, I see the reports and we're improving. As the Department of Finance, we like to pride ourselves on accurate and timely information, and that's happening. There are a lot of hard-working people in the Department of Finance, the HR side, and in all the departments. They're working their hardest to make the government a place to work.

I know, judging from the number of applications, that there were almost

13,000 applications for 433 jobs last year, so somebody wants to work for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 036 – 4(3): Oral Health Screening Program

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

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the Department of Health issued a public service announcement stating that an oral health screening program would be delivered in Iqaluit for infants and children from zero to eight years old. I'm sure the minister will agree that infants and children in other Nunavut communities could also benefit from such a service.

Can the minister provide an update on when such an oral screening program will be held in other Nunavut communities such as Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a pilot project to see how it's going to run and we will study it carefully and we will spread it out if we can, if it's going to benefit all Nunavummiut. We will study it further and I'm happy to say that we will try it out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked the minister and the former Minister of Health a number of times about the status of a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet. Can the minister provide an update on the current arrangements for full-time dental services in the community of Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this is not new. The dentists are independent and it's up to them on what they do about the position.

I have met with the dentist who has been in Rankin Inlet to see if they can open a practice in Rankin Inlet. We're trying to provide any assistance we can on whether we will have a dentist in Rankin Inlet. He says that he's waiting on federal government assistance. If that can go ahead, they will want to open a practice in Rankin Inlet. Since they are independent, I cannot really reply to that. They can provide a response themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clear that good oral health is very important to establish in our early years. Will the minister commit to ensuring that every community across Nunavut will receive oral health screening services for infants and

children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is desirable. Once the children are taught proper dental hygiene and once they get proper education, they will want to protect their teeth more. This is good for the future and it's desirable. We are doing a pilot project and if it goes properly, then we will spread it out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the time for question period has expired. We will move on with our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. There are none. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. There are none. Item 10. Petitions. There are none. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. There are none. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. There are none. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 015 – 4(3): 2014-2015 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

Tabled Document 016 – 4(3): Chief Medical Officer of Health's 2014-2015 Tobacco Control Act Annual Report

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have two documents to table

today, firstly, the *2014-2015 Annual Report of the Operation of the Medical Care Plan*; secondly, the *Chief Medical Officer of Health's 2014-2015 Tobacco Control Act Annual Report*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. There are none. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2) with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

As we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, I ask that the members remain at their seats as we will start once we are ready.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. (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 1, 2, and 3 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 3 and the review of Economic

Development and Transportation and, if time permits, the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill [3]?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2016-2017 – Economic
Development and Transportation
– Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go...? (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Minister Ell-Kanayuk, do you have witnesses to appear before the committee?

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my Deputy Minister, Pauloosie Suvega, and Tanya Winmill, (interpretation ends) Director of Finance and Administration, (interpretation) join me at the witness table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. I know you have introduced your officials, but for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister Pauloosie Suvega and to my right is Tanya Winmill, Director of Finance and Administration.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Yesterday, we were on (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. K-3. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister Ell-Kanayuk and your officials. Welcome.

I know we alluded to it yesterday, but I just want to reiterate again in regard to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 20-year capital needs assessment. They were supposed to make that report and they were supposed to table it in the Legislative Assembly. I just want to say that we would be interested in seeing the report. I asked the question during the last session in the spring in regard to that and I hear that it won't be tabled. We expect to see the report tabled.

I would like to ask the minister, in June 2015, the Legislative Assembly approved \$15,381,000 in capital carryovers for the department, including \$1,385,000 for the project to relocate Pangnirtung's airport. CBC News has recently reported that the estimated cost for Pangnirtung's new airport is between \$175 million and \$200 million. Is this an accurate estimate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Pangnirtung Airport relocation project, it's not actually the estimated cost; they're now studying how much it will actually cost. We're just starting to do a study as to how much it will cost so that we can get an accurate estimate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Also, on June 19, 2015, the Minister of Community and Government Services sent correspondence to all MLAs concerning the federal government's New Building Canada Fund. The correspondence indicated that local and regional airport projects are eligible for consideration.

Is your department preparing a submission to the federal Building Canada Fund with respect to Pangnirtung's new airport or whether it's going to the other communities? Will you be submitting your proposal to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many applications that we have with the federal government, so maybe the member can elaborate further as to which application he is talking about, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please clarify your question, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the New Building Canada Fund, they provide funding and the correspondence indicated that the local and regional airports could be eligible for consideration. I believe that they have to submit an application first. Therefore, my question to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is in regard to the Building Canada Fund. Which application will you be making for which community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can ask that my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Only if the plans have been forwarded, but not necessarily in that manner, as only through collaboration with other departments can the future applications be submitted. (interpretation ends) We do work with other departments to prepare some of these capital submissions. Any capital submissions that don't end up in the Building Canada Fund applications, we do try and shift to other available pots of federal funding, such as the Airport Capital Assistance Program. I hope that

answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It kind of answers [my question], but I'm just trying to get at if there are certain projects that you will be submitting proposals to the Building Canada Fund. Have they identified specific projects to the Building Canada Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we have not identified (interpretation ends) as of yet. (interpretation) We have not identified them yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for visiting one of my constituency communities. I had the opportunity to go to Kimmirut in August this summer. She also brought some of her staff to have a meeting with the hamlet council and they talked specifically about the Kimmirut Airport.

There was a study that was submitted and it's in regard to the Kimmirut Airport. I'm very pleased that there was a study done on the Kimmirut Airport. I would like to ask the minister what the status is on the Kimmirut Airport

At the time I was elected to the House, I was looking for previous reports that had been done on the Kimmirut Airport and I couldn't find any documentation or studies that have been produced. I also had the Legislative Assembly library staff look for some of the documentation.

The government has been talking about the Kimmirut Airport, so I would like to know what kinds of plans they have for the airport in Kimmirut or possibly if they're going to be making another application and to do an estimate on the costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a need to move the airport in Kimmirut because there is no more land to extend it. We did go see the condition of the airport. We are currently working on how we can include it into the capital estimates. (interpretation ends) The department will ensure that the relocation of the Kimmirut Airport project receives full consideration under the GN capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. This issue has been discussed since before Nunavut was created and it seems like we're starting to get work underway and I'm starting to see studies that have been done and cost estimates.

Moving on to another subject, (interpretation ends) I wanted to also ask on a different topic. In one of your department's substantiation sheets for the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project, it says that "Prior to the commencement of procurement, the project team sought and received cabinet approval regarding the proposed strategy for complying with Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims and the approach taken focused around guaranteed minimum levels of Inuit labour during construction and operations with incentives for increasing levels of Inuit labour."

How is this strategy currently being implemented, and what is the current level of Inuit employment with this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuit employment is at 10 percent. It has to be at 10 percent or over and we're at the second phase of construction. We're in the second year. During the first year, from what I gathered, they exceeded the minimum level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. K-3. (interpretation) Following the names on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Joanasi was on the Iqaluit airport, I'll continue with that line. On

the department's substantiation sheet, and we've had some discussions and questions that I have raised in the past on a challenge regarding the land swap with the City of Iqaluit. I'm just wondering if the minister can update us today on what the status of the two land swaps regarding this project is today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has not been completed yet. Staff are still currently working with the city on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns with one of those parcels of land is it was deemed a contaminated site by the previous land owner, the federal government.

Before a land swap can take place, I'm sure a full environmental clean-up will have to be undertaken. At this time, there is no agreement in place for a clean-up. As of today, what actions have been taken to enter into an agreement for the clean-up of this site? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those details are still being worked out at this time and we will also have to be having discussions now with the new government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I won't bother asking what the estimated cost will be. I'm sure, with the negotiations, I'll look forward to that information down the road.

I would like to go into the marine infrastructure side of the project. My first question is something that's not in the capital plan. Earlier this summer during the campaign period, the federal and territorial governments publicly announced support for two major marine infrastructure projects here in Nunavut, one in Pond Inlet and one here in Iqaluit.

Although the news release has indicated that the Government of Nunavut will be responsible for providing approximately \$30 million for the two projects, neither project is referred to in the capital estimates or the current five-year capital plan. Are we to assume that there will be a supplementary appropriation bill to be coming forward on these projects and, if so, when can we expect to see that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were very pleased to hear the commitment from the previous government and we will be working with the new government to ensure that these federal commitments will be honoured. Once the contribution agreements are signed, which we're currently working towards now, then after that we can do a supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am very pleased with those announcements that were made, especially the one here in Iqaluit. I think it's long overdue and it's something that I have been promoting since the day that I got elected, if not before that.

I would like to go into the small craft harbour budget. You've got half a million dollars allocated. There was some information provided to a standing committee member recently stating that approximately \$900,000 in proposals were submitted by communities during the 2014-15 fiscal year.

How many proposals from communities for funding under this capital contribution program has your department received to date in the 2015-16 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 16. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: I guess my first question with that is: is the City of Iqaluit one of those proposal-submitters? As I'm sure the minister is more aware even than myself, the challenge of getting a boat in and out of the water here in Iqaluit, it almost seems like you need to take a lottery ticket to get your place in line to get your boat in or out to go with the

tides. I'm just wondering if the City of Iqaluit was one of the applicants to provide some type of a better ramp system or some other infrastructure that would enable more people to access the water at a time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to have proper docking facilities. The project in Iqaluit was about \$40,000, but my department was responsible for it, not the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. One of my colleagues just handed me some information while you were answering and I appreciate that, and I'm looking forward to seeing some work done.

We're all aware of the community need across the territory on marine infrastructure. As we all know, half a million dollars, in the grand scheme of things, doesn't go very far. Has there been any consideration by your department to increase this program to allow... Like you stated already, there are 16 applicants going forward. I think that's probably over the amount that has been applied for now. Has there been any consideration to increase this budget line? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Yes, under the Community Transportation Initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under that initiative, are the criteria going to be the same as an application-based and, if the criteria are the same, why wasn't it included in the same program? Maybe I'm misunderstanding something. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have the deputy minister elaborate on that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have considered increases as we receive a number of applications. It's a hugely popular program and we are thankful that we were able to see increases in other transportation-related areas.

We just met with, for example, the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators this morning and went to sit down with them and with municipalities and further refine and develop, let's say for example, guidelines on the access of the program to see if we can have areas of improvement. Some of the lines of questioning and suggestions we had was, "Can't we increase the funding?" Well, part of that would be dependent approvals we get in the House as part of

the budget development process and part of it would be dependent on the types of applications we receive from municipalities and depending on what monies we have left available.

We have tried to be proactive and reach out with municipalities and work with them on their applications. At the end of the day, it's not going to be enough money based on the types and amounts of applications coming in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Suvega for that response. It clarifies it for me. We all know this is not an endless stream of money available, otherwise our jobs would be a lot easier and your job would be a lot easier.

I'm going to take a step back to the Iqaluit airport project and bring up an issue that I have been bringing up for a little over two years now with the passenger bridge situation. I realize I have been asking questions to maybe not yourself as Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, but I'm sure your officials have made you aware. I'm sure you're very much aware, as I believe you're also the minister responsible for Nunavut disabilities.

I don't like using the word "assume," but I'm aware of some correspondence that you have received from Nunavut disabilities societies and different groups and citizens out there regarding the importance of including a passenger bridge in this project. As I have brought up the fact before, it's not in the grand scope of a project of this nature, not that

it's an insubstantial amount, but it's not a large amount to include.

I know it's going to be framed in for possibly adding three passenger bridges, or jet walks, as I have been calling them. I don't understand the issue of why we can't include starting off with one so that available aircraft that are coming up in a passenger configuration could be used, which may help passengers determine which aircraft they would be more comfortable flying in so that they can exit and enter airplanes with dignity.

I'm just wondering if there has been any more momentum on adding a passenger bridge to the airport project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) All air carriers have a statutory responsibility to assist people in boarding and deplaning. We attempted to engage the air carriers to facilitate a solution in the planning for this project and they opted to stay with the status quo, but we will remain willing to help facilitate for a solution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While appreciate that, it seems like if a passenger bridge was available, the airlines wouldn't have a choice but to use it on a demand from their clientele. We have all been hearing numerous examples around this Chamber over the last couple days on the control that the airlines seem to be having over cargo

and passenger services. Here we are, restricting our own infrastructure on the request of a private company. I just don't see the logic in that.

If we add that piece of infrastructure to this project and the airplanes are coming up in full passenger configuration, those flights would, through public demand, utilize that service, to me, whether they like it or not. I would like to get the minister's position on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current design of the new international airport does include the possibility to put a new bridge there in the future if the air carriers decided at that time in the future to put one in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do thank the minister and I understand the position I'm kind of putting you in here. At the same time, we all are very much aware of the increasing costs of construction and infrastructure. The longer we wait, the more expensive this is going to be.

If I recall correctly, the numbers are around \$750,000 to \$1 million estimated to put one of these passenger bridges in, and I think that's a small price to pay, in my opinion, out of the total amount being expended here to help our residents who do have mobility issues a continued sense of dignity.

That's more of a comment. I don't really have a question in there, but I'm hoping the minister will take this under consideration in her discussions in the control that these airlines seem to be continuously putting on Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I didn't hear a question; it's just a comment, but Minister Ell-Kanayuk, you may respond to it. Minister Ell-Kanayuk

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say that we have had lengthy discussions with the air carriers on this topic and moving forward, we will have some more in the future, if needed to be done. We could look at a passenger bridge or a passenger bridge model and possibly tax back or do a payment back from the airlines at some point down the road, if that was what had to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. K-3. Following the list of names, Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have a couple of questions to the minister. As you know, I have written letters regarding the airport terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet.

Just recently this afternoon, I made a comment in my Member's Statement about the Premier's visit to Chesterfield Inlet. When the flight was called for them to leave, a couple of your staff got stuck in the terminal building because

they couldn't open the door, and these are actual freezer doors. You can just imagine it. The weather was nice. It wasn't cold, so the door wasn't frozen. However, that happens over the winter. These doors freeze and you just can't open these things.

Anyway, my question is, I know in your letter to me, you indicated that the airport terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet is programmed into the 20-year capital plan. However, I don't think that terminal building is going to last any more than two or three years now. I would suggest that your department take a serious look at the terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet. I know there are other facilities just like that in the Kivalliq as well. That is more of a comment than a question.

However, I also know that in your five-year capital plan, you're planning to build a visitor centre in Rankin Inlet, which is a good news item as far as I'm concerned, and I know the community of Rankin Inlet and the Kivalliq are pleased about that. However, I wonder, because in my conversation with some of my constituents in Rankin Inlet, there is a desire for them to also see some kind of a cultural heritage facility. I'm wondering if you might be able to have a dialogue with your cabinet colleague as to whether this visitor centre can also house cultural and heritage items as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) I'm sorry. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the air terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet, very many air terminal buildings in Nunavut are aged. The one in Chesterfield Inlet was built in 1984 and some of the other ones were built in the mid-1970s.

However, all of the air terminal buildings are being reviewed to see if we can replace them or renovate them. We have started looking at the older terminals. As I stated yesterday, we consider safety first of all. Right now, that is what we have to do because of the lack of funds. We are trying to make sure that the unsafe ones are fixed first.

I can talk to my fellow ministers, but the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre will be for visitors. It won't be like a museum or a heritage centre. It's for the purpose of visitors right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok, are you done? Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. One of my colleagues just mentioned this a little earlier that apparently money can be accessed through the Building Canada Fund for local and regional airports. I'm wondering whether your department has made any submissions at all to the federal government to maybe look at funding the smaller airport terminal buildings.

Regardless of whether the airport terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet was built in 1984, the condition is such that it is a dangerous building. I think

that is something that the department should seriously consider looking at, at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to go through a process when we're going to the Building Canada Fund. It's not just our department that accesses those funds. There is a committee within the government departments that have to look at what projects are in most need and sometimes our airports just don't make it that far until it has become a safety issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you. I really don't have a question at this point; however, a comment. The airport terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet is a serious safety issue. I think the department should immediately start looking into that issue as well. I understand, from my colleague from Repulse Bay-Coral Harbour, he's got the same situation. I also know that there's another one in the Kivalliq; I think it is Whale Cove.

It's not just a desire to get a new airport terminal building. When you live in these communities and you use those facilities as often as we do, we know for a fact that there are safety issues with these buildings. By the way, I will likely table a document before this session is over of pictures that I took of the building in Chesterfield Inlet that will show how bad it is with that building.

My question at this point is: can your department commit to maybe looking at these facilities more urgently than the next 20 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My department has committed to looking at several airports in Nunavut that are in need of either replacement or repair. These include Repulse Bay, built in 1981; Chesterfield Inlet in 1984; Whale Cove in 1986; Taloyoak in 1980; and Kimmirut in 1976. These are being looked at for replacement and we realize they all have ongoing maintenance problems. We are working to try to do solutions for all these airports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. K-3. Total Capital Expenditures. \$65,325,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Economic Development. K-5. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is: on your department's five-year capital plan that was contained in the 2015-16 capital estimates, it indicated that it plans to spend a total of approximately \$7.45 million on a new Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre. However, your department's new five-

year capital plan indicates that it plans to spend a total of approximately \$5.95 million on the new Kivalliq visitor centre. What accounts for the decrease in this project's budget?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the new estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. A. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When will you table detailed information concerning the design of the new Kivalliq regional centre in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): I apologize, I didn't quite understand that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok, please repeat your question.

Mr. Sammurtok: When will you table detailed information concerning the design of the new Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't normally table

those items, but if that's what the members wish, then we can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: In June of 2015, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$285,000 capital carryover for this project. What is this funding currently being spent on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Winmill to answer that question.

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

Ms. Winmill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital carryover would be to pay for the whole cost of the project, which is \$5.95 million in total. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Your department's 2015-16 capital estimates included \$101,000 in funding for upgrades to visitor centres. Which visitor centres are receiving upgrades during the current 2015-16 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be Iqaluit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Your department's proposed 2016-17 capital estimates included \$100,000 in funding for upgrades to visitor centres. Which visitor centres will receive upgrades during the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be both the two visitor centres here in Iqaluit and in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Economic Development. K-5. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Mission. K-2. Total Capital Expenditures. \$68,325,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed that the Department of ED&T is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now

like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation for closing comments. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleagues for your questions during the review of the Economic Development and Transportation's capital estimates for 2016-17.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my staff, Deputy Minister Paul Suvega and Director of Finance and Administration Tanya Winmill, and Art Stewart for helping me answer your questions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify a few matters that were raised yesterday.

Members may notice that our opening comments did not mention the \$100,000 small capital for studies. While we don't know at this time exactly what studies will be conducted, these will be related to general capital planning requirements, including studies related to the pursuit of improved instrument procedures at various airports.

As my colleagues pointed out yesterday and as the director of finance and administration indicated, there are two errors in the substantiation sheet. Firstly, the cost estimates for the Taloyoak airport terminal building are class "D" estimates rather than class "X," and the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project estimates are class "A" estimates rather than class "C."

Lastly, I would like to address my colleagues' concerns about the privacy

and the Motor Vehicle Information System. I recognize that the disclosure of personal information through entities outside of the department must be consistent. With the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, at the same time, the MVIS project does not entail the sharing of new information; rather it will be doing the same thing as it has currently been doing and it will be doing it more efficiently and more reliably.

However, I can commit to my colleagues that the department will conduct a private impact assessment for all our motor vehicle operations in tandem with the MVIS project. Depending on the results of that assessment, we may decide to consult with Information and Privacy Commissioner on specific issues identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

Thank you very much, Sergeant-at-Arms. My colleagues, if you can stay seated so that we can carry on. We will be preparing for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We will move on to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

**Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2016-2017 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Thank you very much. We will be reviewing the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation if

he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

(interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Kuksuk, please introduce your officials. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, to my left is Stephen Hooey, who is our chief operating officer for the housing corporation, and to my right is Lori Kimball, the president of the housing corporation. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The corporation's capital plan for 2016-17 consists of \$38,060,000 from the Government of Nunavut, additional funding of \$5,745,000 from CMHC, comprising of \$4,290,000 under the Social Housing Agreement and \$1,455,000 through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program. These funding sources bring the total NHC capital budget for 2016-17 to \$43,805,000.

Overall Capital Budget

NHC capital funding remains at approximately the same level as last year for modernization, or M&I, for NHC owned public housing and staff housing units, the Mobile Equipment Fund, homeownership programs, including the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program.

Fire Damage Replacement Fund

NHC's funding for the Fire Damage and Replacement Fund will increase by \$782,000 to \$3,382,000 in 2016-17. This funding includes \$1 million in base funding for unknown repairs, \$582,000 to address excess repairs from the prior year, and \$1.8 million for unit replacement.

Warehousing

Warehouse facilities in some of the 25 Nunavut communities date back to the early '70s with the average age being between 21 and 23 years old. In addition, there has been substantial growth in the number of housing units to be maintained and the sheer size of warehousing facilities cannot accommodate current demands. To address this growth and attend to structural and safety concerns, NHC will be dedicating \$4.7 million annually to replace the warehouses in Nunavut starting with Baker Lake.

New Construction – 2016-17

NHC is anticipating being able to build 83 new units in 2016-17. NHC is planning on tendering the construction of 40 new public housing units in 2016-

17 with combined funding from \$12.5 million GN capital funding, the \$1,455,000 in investment in affordable housing federal funding, the \$600,000 from fire damage replacement funding, and the \$5 million remaining funds from the 2014-15 unspent due to land availability issues in Iqaluit.

NHC is anticipating the tender of 43 new staff housing units with combined funding from \$20 million from the January 2015 supplementary appropriation, the \$5 million from the 2016-17 GN capital funding for staff housing construction, \$2.8 million for health centre housing in Arctic Bay, and \$2.2 million carried over from 2015-16 for staff housing unspent due to land unavailability in Hall Beach and Resolute Bay.

After careful analysis of the staff housing situation in every community, NHC has determined a shortlist of 10 communities for new staff housing construction. These are Arctic Bay, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Resolute Bay, and Sanikiluaq. The detailed list will be tabled in the session.

Several factors were considered when allocating new staff housing construction, including student-teacher ratios, the number of forced shared units, the overall increase in positions across the GN, and GN staff vacancies. In the end, priority for new staff housing construction has been given to non-decentralized communities that have the greatest need for priority category 1 and 2 positions, as per the GN Staff Housing Policy.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the steady application of NHC's allocation methodology for new construction, there has been noticeable reduction in the gap between communities in terms of their ranking of relative need. This means that today, NHC can group communities according to four major categories:

1. Communities where the need is greater than 40 percent;
2. Communities where the need is between 35 percent and 40 percent;
3. Communities where the need is between 30 percent and 35 percent; and
4. Communities where the need is less than 30 percent.

These categories were useful in determining where to group public housing and staff housing construction tenders for 2016-17, as it made it possible to combine communities selected for new staff housing construction with communities with more than 35 percent need for new public housing. Combining construction projects by community has been shown to help reduce the costs of construction. As such, we will build public housing in Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet, and Nauyasat.

Land issue in Iqaluit

In order to provide further clarification regarding land availability issues in Iqaluit, allow me to state that the fundamental problem is a lack of developed land available for lease in the capital. Until more land is developed or existing buildings are demolished to

create new land, the Nunavut Housing Corporation cannot construct any new housing in the city.

Another issue is that zoning restrictions in Iqaluit prohibit NHC from constructing a multiplex on lots that it owns. NHC's plan for these lots is to develop a supportive housing solution to meet the needs of elders or people with disabilities.

NHC is also looking at other lots that may be available in Iqaluit through the federal surplus program. However, this process is not expected to be completed in time for the 2016-17 construction season.

NHC is currently working closely with the City of Iqaluit to explore opportunities for developed land to be made available, but until this can be accomplished, NHC must withhold allocation of any new public or staff housing construction.

Changes to Homeownership Programs

Mr. Chairman, I would like to demonstrate to my colleagues that their concerns regarding the Tenant-to-Owner (TOP) Program have been heard, and the program has been revised and reactivated. The Tenant-to-Owner Program allows public housing tenants to purchase their unit and become homeowners. The program aims to support self-reliance in tenants by eliminating their dependence on public housing.

Further, in support of NHC's *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate to meet the housing needs of the growing elder population, NHC has also revised and reactivated the

Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Home Options Program (SDHOP). The program helps elders and homeowners with disabilities to transfer their homes to a relative in public housing. This program is meant to address overcrowding while supporting aging in place.

Mr. Speaker and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear your comments and to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt, please proceed.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development concerning its review of the proposed 2016-17 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for 2016-17 is \$38,060,000. The corporation's capital budget was \$30,072,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year and \$30,230,000 for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a range of programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. Members note that the corporation is proposing a budget of \$4,616,000 for its various homeownership programs in its 2016-17 capital estimates. The

corporation's budget for homeownership programs has not changed since the introduction of the 2011-12 capital estimates.

Members continue to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the adequacy of its funding for homeownership programs. Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, members have previously raised concerns regarding the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs are benefiting long-term residents of the territory and residents of smaller communities.

In July of 2012, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced changes to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. It indicated that "These changes aim to support the development of private real estate markets in Nunavut" and that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to "assist a greater number of Nunavummiut in becoming homeowners, and ensure fair access to assistance."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2014. This report provides important information concerning the administration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs. However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports have not clearly detailed the extent to which homeownership programs are being accessed in large, medium, and small communities.

The standing committee looks forward to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's future annual reports providing

significantly greater levels of detail concerning the administration of its homeownership programs, which will help enable all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to better evaluate the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs are being accessed in small, medium, and large communities.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, two specific issues that were raised by the standing committee during its consideration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2015-16 capital estimates concerned the Nunavut Housing Corporation's income thresholds for its homeownership programs and the availability of certified contractors and tradespersons in smaller communities.

When the minister appeared before the Committee of the Whole on October 28 of 2014, he stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is "introducing new community-specific, index-able, and realistic income eligibility limits that better reflect the realities of life in Nunavut." He also stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has "made changes to improve the delivery of its home repair and maintenance programs. In communities where there is no access to local skilled labour to do repairs, travel costs to bring in a contractor...will now be considered over and above the program contribution." The standing committee looks forward to future annual reports of the Nunavut Housing Corporation describing in detail the impact that these changes have had on the administration of its homeownership programs.

The standing committee continues to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the feasibility of providing support for low-income seniors who are homeowners to purchase home insurance.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation review its current residency requirements for its homeownership programs so as to achieve greater consistency with other territorial programs and entitlements. For example, individuals are required by law to have been residents of Nunavut for at least 12 months prior to being eligible to vote in a territorial general election. It is not unreasonable to expect individuals to have lived in Nunavut for at least one year in order to qualify for the significant financial assistance that is available under the government's homeownership programs.

The standing committee is also supportive of efforts on the part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review its homeownership programs with the goal of encouraging the construction of new units, thereby increasing the total housing stock in the territory.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members expressed concern regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan to consolidate its \$4.0 million in funding for its primary suite of homeownership programs into a "one-line item for all of Nunavut" as opposed to its longstanding practice of allocating this budget by region.

At present, information that is available to the public on the Nunavut Housing

Corporation's website concerning the Tenant-to-Owner Program indicates that application documentation concerning this program is being updated. The standing committee continues to encourage the NHC to publicly clarify the long-term future of this program.

In March of 2010, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program. The corporation's proposed 2016-17 budget for this program is \$500,000.

Information concerning this program indicates that "this is a five-year initiative with a goal of replacing one hundred heating oil tanks per year for a total of 500 oil tanks across Nunavut. This program is subject to review and/or renewal after five years and is expected to be renewed due to high demand." The standing committee supports the renewal of this important program.

The standing committee also continues to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work closely with municipalities and the Department of Community and Government Services concerning the issue of safe and environmentally responsible disposal of used oil tanks.

Mr. Chairman, the shortage of public housing in Nunavut's communities is an ongoing issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

On May 13, 2013, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that it

"issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for facilitation and reporting services for the interdepartmental consultation process and the preparation of the Blueprint for Action" in relation to its Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The business plan also indicates that "The RFP is expected to be awarded in January 2015, with the consultation process wrapping up in the fall of 2015, and the delivery of the final Blueprint for Action delivered by the end of fiscal 2015/16."

The standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's implementation of its Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2016-17 include \$12.5 million in funding for new public housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current five-year capital plan indicates that this amount is projected to increase on an annual basis in coming years, reaching a total of \$22.5 million in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The standing committee supports increased investments in new public housing.

On October 29 of 2014, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled information in the Legislative Assembly which outlined the corporation's plans for public housing construction, land acquisition and development in the 2015-16 fiscal year. This document indicated that the communities of Arviat, Pond Inlet, and Kugaaruk would each receive three new five-plexes during the 2015-16 fiscal

year. It also indicated that the communities of Kimmirut, Hall Beach, Resolute Bay, Coral Harbour, and Whale Cove would receive new staff housing units.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation released a detailed background document concerning its new public housing allocation system on September 9 of 2013. This document contained important information concerning current waitlists and housing stock across Nunavut. The standing committee encourages the minister to table an updated edition of this document in the Legislative Assembly, as it would serve to publicly substantiate the Nunavut Housing Corporation's decisions regarding its 2016-17 public housing construction plans.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2016-17 include \$5.0 million in funding for new staff housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year was to "Research alternative approaches for the delivery of staff housing in emerging market communities." It also indicates that it has "prepared an outline for a comprehensive staff housing policy and program review. This review is being overseen by the Building Capacity Committee. The development of options to address employees' housing needs will also be included in the Blueprint for Action."

In March of 2015, the Legislative Assembly approved *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2014-2015*. This included \$20.0 million in funding for the construction of new

staff housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's backgrounder for this expenditure indicated in part that "This \$20.0 million will be combined with the 2016-2017 capital budget of \$5.0 million, and will be allocated strategically."

It is important that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plans for the construction of new public housing units and staff housing units be presented to the Legislative Assembly prior to the corporation's capital estimates being considered. It is also important that the results of the government's review of longstanding vacant positions be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current five-year capital plan indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will spend \$4.7 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year on a new warehousing facility in the community of Baker Lake. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated that it plans to "replace one warehouse each [year], beginning in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, on a prioritized basis." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, concerns were expressed that the warehousing project for the 2016-17 fiscal year remains at the class "X" stage of development.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2016-17 capital estimates include \$1,020,000 for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. The standing committee continues to recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports include a detailed listing

of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by LHOs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Do members have any opening comments? I want to remind members that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

I have no members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's estimates on page L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have not so much of a question but a clarification on the minister's opening comments on page 4. In the second paragraph, it's says, "Combining construction projects by community has been shown to help reduce the costs of construction." I would just like an explanation first on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please provide an explanation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's a methodology to try to build more houses for the least amount of money,

whether it's staff or public housing, through the housing associations. We know that they look at the community with the most need of staff housing and public housing. That is looked at and then when communities are given different units, either staff or public housing, it's always cheaper. That's why we try to give as many units as possible. It's cheaper to build multiplexes and units are cheaper when you build multiplexes if it's for staff or public housing.

I hope that makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity then, because it wasn't that clear in the minister's answer, the cost of construction goes down if a community gets both staff housing and public housing, even though they're different contracts. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): If the Nunavut Housing Corporation builds staff or public housing, (interpretation ends) the more you build, whether it's a staff housing unit or a public housing unit in that community, it's cheaper. (interpretation) It's always cheaper to build multiplex units than one unit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just having a hard time

understanding here. The more houses you build in the communities, the cheaper the construction cost is, even if they're not combined. If he builds one public housing unit or five public housing units, then the cost would be cheaper. In his opening comments, it says that "Combining construction projects by community has been shown to help reduce the costs..." I'm just having a hard time understanding exactly what's meant by that. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff housing or public housing units are all tendered together. Therefore, when you tender it together and one community contractor put in a bid, whether it is staff housing or a public housing unit for that community, we find that it's cheaper when you combine tenders for public housing or staff housing.

(interpretation) If you still don't understand my response, Ms. Kimball can try and explain that in another way than (interpretation ends) how I'm saying it. (interpretation) It might be better if she explains it to you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have found that the more units we're building or the more multiplexes we're building, with the economies of scale, the price comes down. Contractors have to incur what's

called mobilization fees, so costs to bring the contractor and equipment into the community. The more units you're constructing, the less that cost is per unit.

Recently, when we did Pond Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Arviat with three five-plexes each, we actually found that the cost went down from prior tenders because we had 15 units in each community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have a rough estimate of how much cheaper these costs are. Just a comment on that, maybe you should have built four five-plexes in Arviat. It would have been even cheaper. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As to how much cheaper it would be for the community, I don't have that information in front of me, (interpretation ends) but we can get back to it. (interpretation) As for the actual cost savings when you have multiplex contracts, we don't have that information in front of us. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5, in the second last paragraph, the program where seniors can give their house to their relatives or trade houses with someone that is in public housing, I think that is a very good program and I absolutely agree

with it because some seniors with disabilities have a hard time maintaining their own houses. I know that Simeon would probably ask this, but he is in the Chair, so can you define a senior? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: I guess I'm a senior now.

>> *Laughter*

It's 60 and over. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. People who are 60 years or older are considered seniors.

We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. L-3. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what my colleague was asking about. We had been thinking about exactly the same thing. Let me ask again: do I understand correctly with the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, it says that when it comes to people with disabilities, the Nunavut Housing Corporation really wants to help them? That's great. However, I misunderstood the one where you could trade houses and move to another unit. Would it be just to move to another house, not to another community? That's what it means, right? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for asking that good question. What it means is an elder or an older person who owns their own house can trade it. They would be able to trade it because they're too old now or they're physically disabled. There are different reasons that can be used. They can put in a request to move to public housing and turn their private unit over to one of their relatives to be taken care of and owned by the relative. We're trying to make that a possibility so they can do it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. I always wanted to understand that. I fully understand it now. I'm sure my constituents are hearing this. Some people want to trade and they hit roadblocks, so it's good to hear that the program is actually there. I thank you for the good planning you did on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I think that was more of a general comment. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his staff. My first question, in your opening comments, you talk about different things like homeownership programs. I know this is capital, but I just wanted to ask one question about NDAP. It's for over a 10-year period and no forgiveness for the first five years. I'm wondering if somebody could buy a

house using that program and then rent it out and go down south. Are they allowed to do that? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the question, Ms. Angnakak, but the answer is no. You have to live in it. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thank you for your response. That's all I'm going to ask about that.

I want to go on to your Fire Damage Replacement Fund. Over the last few months, the issue of public housing units and fires has been in the news. You're increasing the dollars by \$782,000 and that's for fire damage and replacement of units. As the Nunavut Housing Corporation, how are you dealing with this? What kind of strategy have you put in place to try and deal with the increasing number of arson in many cases or it's just fire, to deal with so many units being affected by kids starting fires? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I made a mistake. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. It's an excellent question. There are several ways that we are dealing with how we can prevent fires from destroying homes or units that

we own or privately owned by people. There are several ways.

One way is by engaging with our tenants. If you will recall, at the beginning of the year, we circulated or had some calendars that were distributed by the corporation to the people of Nunavut where each month had all sorts of things that had to do with fire; how to safely look after your home or how to prevent fires, and such-and-such as that. That is one way we try and keep our tenants aware of the fire prevention or how they can improve their homes in terms of keeping it fire-safe or away from fire hazards, whether that's for public housing or homeowners in Nunavut.

If there are any other ways that we are promoting or trying to make housing owners and tenants to be more aware of these types of things in a home, maybe Ms. Kimball can add more, but this is one that I believe was very successful when we distributed the calendars with all the stuff that we put in there; what to look for, what hazard stuff that you should look for in a home.

(interpretation) I hope I'm understandable, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well, we are working on revitalizing our website. We recognize that our website could be a lot better and we've got a draft one under development to have a portal.

One other thing is it's not just about tenant awareness, but it's also making sure our structures are as protected against fire as we can be. We are happy with the new building code standards that we are using for fire separation and those things are new units. When we have had fires in our multiplex units, we have seen that in the newer units, they are being contained successfully to the one unit, which is really important as we go into more dense units and more multiplexes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your answer, minister and Lori. When we're talking about families whose public units have caught fire, very often I think it is some family member maybe. What kind of interaction do you have with that family after the fact? I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kimball can answer in a much broader way in terms of what kind of interaction we have with the families after such incidents. Ms. Kimball, (interpretation) if it's okay with you, I would like her to elaborate on that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our LHO staff are great on the frontlines and they work very closely with the families that are affected. They know the members of the communities,

so they will work with the family to see if there's a place that they can stay in the short term. We work closely to make sure that they're accommodated as best as we can.

We also look at the circumstances of the fire. In some cases, if it is an at-fault incident, it can become tenant damage, which can create barriers, but our LHO staff are great at working with the families involved. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it's tenant damage and it's done by a child and they can't live in the unit anymore, and when a new unit is built, are they first on the list to go into the new house or how does that all work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps Ms. Kimball can just carry on and explain what the procedures are to make it clearer. After a unit is purposely set on fire, I'm not clear on the exact procedures or steps that are taken. I would like Ms. Kimball to answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Great question. We're actually working to enhance or clarify our policies around that because there's a big difference between negligence and intent. There's really a different response that should be appropriate for each of those scenarios. Again, we do work with

the family if it's absolutely accidental, at no fault of the tenant. I would put children in that category to a certain degree, although there can be different circumstances. Basically, if there's no intention, that it was truly an accident, then they would be next on the list. If not, then it's the point rating system that would kick in. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the next couple of questions, I want to ask about insurance because I'm sure with the fires happening and if you're getting increasing numbers of these kinds of incidents happening, then what impact does that have on the insurance rate? The other question that I will ask right away is: who pays this insurance? Is this blanket insurance through the government as a whole or do you have a budget line item for insurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to insurance, the government is self-insured. I'm not sure how I can explain insurance properly, but if she is asking about housing corporation units or government units and how the insurance is handled, there are different agencies that are responsible for government owned units or privately owned units and who insures the building.

When it comes to fire, if the building became unusable, there is a replacement fund if a fire destroys a building. We

would provide the funding from what we call the Fire Damage Replacement Fund to replace the unit if the unit caught on fire and it became unusable. We would provide funding (interpretation ends) from that fire fund. (interpretation) It would replace (interpretation ends) that unit (interpretation) if it was destroyed by fire. I hope I'm clear. (interpretation ends) We have a replacement fund. Should that unit be totally destroyed by fire, we have funds available to replace that unit. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for your response. I'm just wondering, that replacement fund is not insurance; that is just a pot of money. What about actual insurance over a unit? Is there such a thing for public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that question, maybe if I could get Ms. Kimball to [respond], maybe she will be able to give you a better answer on that. Mr. Chairman, if you will allow Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, we do not insure the GN externally through an insurance coverage for our social housing. I think, in the past, it was looked at, but it was just not doable financially. Instead, we have this fire fund which we apply through the capital

budgeting process to give us the funding required to replace. At this point, the amount we're paying per year, I would think, would be quite less than trying to insure a billion dollars worth of housing assets. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'm going to go on to something else. In April of 2015, the president, such as you Lori, appeared before the Committee of the Senate of Canada. In your testimony, you stated that the cost of owning and operating a house in Nunavut ranges from \$158,000 to \$186,000 per year. This is the minimum income that you would need to be able to afford homeownership in various communities. I'm wondering if you can tell us: how did the Nunavut Housing Corporation calculate these amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Ms. Kimball to answer that question as well. Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those figures are based on figures we obtained from CMHC. They are produced annually. They are called CNITs (Core Needs Income Thresholds), but we have modified them. When CMHC does the calculation, they only include 30 percent of labour. We actually gross that up to 100 percent labour costs. It's basically the cost of

carrying a mortgage. What would your monthly mortgage payments be, your insurance, all of your utilities, and your property taxes? There is a whole gamut of costs that are calculated in there. We're using those CMHC numbers adjusted for 100 percent labour to establish the cost per community. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Would you commit to ensuring that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's next annual report contains a breakdown of homeownership costs community by community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: I believe we can, but you can also look it up on our website on programs under homeownership. (interpretation) You can see the cost of the housing corporation units on the website, (interpretation ends) but we can provide that information at a later time. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that commitment. In your overall budget for homeownership programs, it hasn't increased since the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and your most recently tabled annual report of the 2013-14 fiscal year indicates that you had a total of 293 pending and waitlisted applications. This

was under the homeownership programs. That was as of March 31, 2014.

We are wondering: why has the Nunavut Housing Corporation's overall budget for homeownership programs not been increased? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. I can respond to a part of it, but I'll have Ms. Kimball give a more detailed answer to your question. At this time, (interpretation ends) as of March 31, 2015, (interpretation) there are 139 (interpretation ends) pending and waitlisted. (interpretation) In regard to part of your question, I'll have Ms. Kimball respond if that's okay with you. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the past year, we were able to dramatically decrease the pending and waitlist number of applications. The balance at the end of the year is really based on the process and the steps involved to issue the payments for that. They're not a result of a budget limitation. The fact that we have 139 outstanding at year-end is really about the process involved.

For instance, for the Home Repair Program, we have to do a scope of work, we have to tender the work, and we have to find a contractor. We may have also received an incomplete application. Maybe we're missing information from the client. Those are what are in the pending and waitlist section. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go onto the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program that was originally announced in 2010. The substantiation sheet for this project indicates that this is a five-year initiative with the goal of replacing 100 heat and oil tanks per year for a total of 500 oil tanks across Nunavut. This program is subject to review and renewal after five years, and is expected to be renewed due to high demand.

Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation formally decided whether or not to renew this program in 2015 for an additional five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I cannot respond to the additional five-year plan, but if we're going to plan for beyond five years, it would have to go through cabinet to get approval. That is the process we take before we can move on. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Just to be clear, the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be in agreement to renewing this program, but it has to be approved through cabinet first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question. Yes, that is correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you commit to including a community-by-community breakdown of successful applications under the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's next annual report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, absolutely, we have that available and we can distribute the copies to members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, next on my list is Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to actually pick up where my colleague, Ms. Angnakak, left off with the oil tank replacement program. I understand that this was a five-year initiative and it's ending after this fiscal year. What is the uptake still on that program? Is it still using its allocated budget every year? Are there applications being declined because of lack of funds? What has the uptake been since the program has been in inception? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question, my

colleague. Yes, there have been several declined applications due to various reasons and some applications that were approved or new and pending and so on. To answer the question, if I got your question correctly, are you asking why were they declined or a number of declined applications or a number of approved, can you clarify your question, if I didn't quite answer your question? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please rephrase your question, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, with Ms. Angnakak's question about extending this program for potentially another five years, at some point, there are only so many fuel tanks that need replacing in Nunavut. What has the uptake been on it? Is it still a viable program to continue using the full \$500,000 a year or do you increase it? Do you decrease it and keep it in the longer term? I'm just trying to get a sense of what the uptake has been on continuing the viability of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I believe it's clearer now. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, we believe that this should continue because it's a very good program for homeowners. We have since approved up to 64 applicants for this program. If you will allow Ms. Kimball, if she has any other comments on that, maybe she can add more to Mr. Hickes' question if I missed anything. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over this past year, fiscal 2014-15, we had 64 applicants approved and we ended the year with a further 21 applications in the queue and we continue to receive applications for this program. It's still a program under demand. From an environmental liability standpoint, it's something we think is important to support to make sure homeowners aren't facing huge bills for oil tank leaks. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope you do continue with this program. It is a very good program. We have all heard of stories of fuel spills and the vast amounts of money it costs to clean up such a spill when it can be mitigated by a simple \$5,000 to \$8,000 venture of a new fuel tank that's going to last a lot longer.

I would like to change gears here a little bit. I would like to go back to the land issue. In your opening comments you spoke of land availability.

My apologies, Mr. Chairman. A cold is affecting my brain path, I think.

Zoning restrictions is listed as one of the issues. Have there been any discussions with the City of Iqaluit on zoning exemptions to allow more multiplex units to be built on what lots are available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the very good question. As I stated in my opening statement, the land issue for Iqaluit is an

issue for us to build anything until those issues are resolved with the city and all parties involved in solving the land issues in Iqaluit. We want to build, but we can't put a multiplex unit... There's land in some areas in the city that can be rezoned to build a multiplex unit in Iqaluit. At this point, there are discussions going on between the Department of CG&S and the City of Iqaluit. If I got your question correctly, no, nothing has been agreed upon in terms of selecting land for us to build on at the moment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just received the community profile listing with the background around the allocation methodology. I just happened to go to my office to get something. I noticed it was just in my door as of today. When I look at it, it's got the needs listed as a percentage and you've got a critical needs listing of over 40 percent. As of right now, Iqaluit is sitting at 72 percent, almost twice the percentage basis, deeming it critical.

I do understand that there are land availability issues. I have had discussions with your corporation and I know that there are some options being explored with the City of Iqaluit, and I appreciate that. I also know of many instances of people maybe not being adequately housed or over-housed in some cases. Together as a territory and as a city specifically for Iqaluit, seeing such a dire need for housing, I think some of us are going to have to make some sacrifices. If we are in an over-housed situation, we might have to take a look at reallocating some of the staff and even public housing in some cases.

I would just like to get the minister's position on how that is being looked at and whether that's a reasonable path to take to help alleviate some of the stresses on housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the question. That's a very good question. Like every community in Nunavut, including Iqaluit, we want to build and we want to see that we have adequate housing to house our Nunavummiut in any community. We support the reallocation of the existing methodology to meet the needs of Nunavummiut or Iqalummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I would like Ms. Kimball to supplement my response. I know that we are looking at how we can alleviate the housing shortage and work with the communities and the City of Iqaluit because there is a dire need for housing in Iqaluit. Ms. Kimball would like to supplement my response, unless my response is adequate for Mr. Hickes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) As per Rule 6(1), I will now rise to report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 3 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Shooyook. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Tupik): *Orders of the Day* for October 23:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special
Committees on Bills and Other
Matters

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3
- Tabled Document 107 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

(interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Friday, October 23, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:05*

