



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 7

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Pages 312 – 392

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	312
Ministers' Statements	312
Members' Statements	315
Returns to Oral Questions	318
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	319
Oral Questions.....	320
Tabling of Documents.....	335
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	335
First Reading of Bills	335
Second Reading of Bills.....	336
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	338
Report of the Committee of the Whole	391
Orders of the Day	391

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, October 28, 2015..... 312

B.

Ministers' Statements

020 – 4(3): New Wildlife Regulations (Mike) 312
021 – 4(3): Video for Victims on the Court Process in Nunavut (Okalik)..... 313
022 – 4(3): Social Assistance Review (Ugyuk)..... 314
023 – 4(3): Handbook and Training for Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit (Quassa) 314

C.

Members' Statements

061 – 4(3): Respect for Elders (Akoak) 315
062 – 4(3): Baker Lake High School Graduates (Mikkungwak)..... 315
063 – 4(3): Congratulations to Whale Cove Soccer Teams (Kuksuk) 316
064 – 4(3): Problems with Boarding Home in Iqaluit (Keyootak)..... 317
065 – 4(3): Second Year as an Elected Member (Mike) 317
066 – 4(3): Congratulations to Elijah Tigullaraq (Enook) 317
067 – 4(3): 2016 Plebiscite on Land Ownership (Hickes) 318

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 026 – 4(3): Update on Capital Plan for Francophone School (Mike) .. 318

E.

Oral Questions

075 – 4(3): Status of Social Assistance Review (Mikkungwak) 320

076 – 4(3): Public Service Management (Angnakak)	322
077 – 4(3): Elders’ Issues (Akoak).....	324
078 – 4(3): Assistance for Disabled Hunters (Mapsalak).....	324
079 – 4(3): 2016 Plebiscite on Land Ownership (Hickes)	325
080 – 4(3): 2016 Plebiscite on Land Ownership (Savikataaq).....	327
081 – 4(3): Departmental Positions (Enook).....	328
082 – 4(3): Certifying Specialized Medical Equipment (Sammurtok).....	329
083 – 4(3): Handbook and Training for Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit (Joanasie)	330
084 – 4(3): Caribou and Polar Bear Surveys on Baffin Island (Shooyook)	332
085 – 4(3): Departmental Positions (Angnakak).....	333

F.

Tabling of Documents

021 – 4(3): 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor Commission (Peterson)	335
022 – 4(3): 2014 Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission Annual Report (Peterson) .	335

G.

Bills

Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Notice.....	335
Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Notice	335
Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading.....	336
Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – First Reading	336
Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading	337
Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Second Reading	
.....	337
Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2016-2017 – Community and Government Services –	
Consideration in Committee	338

Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2016-2017 – Education – Consideration in Committee. 357

Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2016-2017 – Health – Consideration in Committee 381

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 28, 2015****Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31***Item 1: Opening Prayer**

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut): Premier Taptuna, (interpretation) can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) welcome to the House.

I would first of all like to say that we only have one page on my left. Please take it easy on her. Stephen will be responsible for services for the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the ministers, and the page will not be able to go get documents from upstairs. Thank you.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements.
(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 020 – 4(3): New Wildlife Regulations**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Good day, Nunavummiut and the people of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2015, the Government of Nunavut began the implementation of new regulations... .

Speaker (interpretation): Can you hear now? (interpretation ends) Can you hear now? Okay. Hon. Minister of Environment, please proceed.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On July 1, 2015, the Government of Nunavut began the implementation of new regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. The regulations were made in Nunavut and developed in cooperation with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. They replace the old regulations that were carried over from the Northwest Territories.

The new Wildlife Regulations consist of 10 sets of regulations that make some important changes to the wildlife management system in Nunavut. Many of the changes are deregulatory and remove restrictions that were previously in place. (interpretation ends) Other changes include updated fees for licences, reporting requirements for wildlife-related businesses, and requirements for companies that are involved in wildlife viewing and filmmaking.

(interpretation) Conservation officers were trained in the new regulations prior

to their release, and my department has worked hard to ensure that all Nunavummiut have been informed of any changes that may affect them. Conservation officers will continue to work closely with communities to ensure that community members are well informed.

(interpretation ends) In addition to the regulations released in July, the Department of Environment released new muskox management regulations that came into effect on September 1, 2015. (interpretation) These regulations update the boundaries of the management zones for muskox and the total allowable harvests for each zone. (interpretation ends) The regulations were developed with the input and support of all co-management partners and stakeholder groups. These new regulations better address current harvesting practices in Nunavut, as the old regulations had been in effect since the division from the Northwest Territories.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all of the hard work that our co-management partners have done with us in order to ensure Nunavut's Wildlife Regulations reflect the realities and practices of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 021 – 4(3): Video for Victims on the Court Process in Nunavut

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I'll be making a statement from the Department of Justice.

Navigating through the criminal justice system can be overwhelming for anyone, but particularly overwhelming when one who has experienced a traumatic event. I believe that victims in Nunavut need more support.

I am therefore pleased to report that the Law Society of Nunavut and the Department of Justice's Community Justice Division have been working collaboratively on a video to help victims understand the court process and to help them understand what to expect when attending court. The video illustrates various parts of the court process so that victims have an idea of what they will face and how the process works. It is also a valuable tool for support workers, who work with victims, to use when they are walking victims through the court process.

This video is expected to be released in November in all four official languages and will be distributed to community justice workers in each community. The video will also be available at the Nunavut Law Society.

I would like to thank everyone who worked hard to make this possible. This work would not have been possible without the support of the Nunavut Law Foundation, law society members, the Nunavut Court of Justice, and many volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 022 – 4(3):
Social Assistance Review**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to provide an update on the community engagement component of our social assistance review. In its *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, this government committed to reviewing our approach to social assistance in order to support strong and resilient communities.

In September and October, the departments of Family Services and Economic Development and Transportation travelled to Nunavut's communities and held public meetings on social assistance. The departments will complete the remaining communities in November.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each community for your warm welcome of my colleagues and for providing invaluable feedback to the social assistance review team. We will be visiting the remaining communities in the coming month.

Mr. Speaker, the community engagement process has provided an opportunity for us to identify ideas and actions to change social assistance, and to better support Nunavummiut through training, career development, employment, economic opportunities, and labour market participation.

My department will bring together the input we have heard from our

communities during the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction meeting in December and aim to reach a territory-wide consensus on next steps. We look forward to continuing to advance this work in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 023 – 4(3):
Handbook and Training for
Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, my fellow community members and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the recent suicide inquest has reminded us that it is essential to support our children and youth so that they will develop the social and emotional skills they need to cope with the many challenges of life.

We are committed to building the capacity of the *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* in our schools to support our students' well-being. We are developing an *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit Handbook* to help provide more guidance and direction for this role. The *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* will be consulted for input into the handbook.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently developing training for *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* in *Children's Grief* and

Children's Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour guided by Inuit culture and values.

(interpretation ends) The course on *Children's Grief* explains the usual process of grief and how it is different for children and youth. It will help the counsellors understand those losses for children and youth that may cause special problems. The course will help them develop and practice skills needed to support children and youth who are grieving.

Mr. Speaker, the course on *Children's Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour* explains how feelings and thoughts lead to ways of behaving in children and youth. It will help the *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* understand and provide support when children and youth feel lost and need help with their thoughts and feelings.

(interpretation) This training will be delivered in February 2016 at regional conferences for *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. This is very good news for the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 061 – 4(3): Respect for Elders

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and Uqhuqtuurmiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of respecting elders.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday of last week, I tabled documents of resolutions that were adopted at this year's annual general meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. One of these resolutions concerns the needs for elders. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review these resolutions with care.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the appropriate minister on issues raised at KIA's recent annual general meeting.

I also want to say that it is important for us to respect and honour our elders in our daily lives. Elder abuse and elder neglect occur too often in our communities. I ask all members to join me in expressing respect for our elders and taking a firm stand against elder abuse and neglect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 062 – 4(3): Baker Lake High School Graduates

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the 2015

graduates of the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School in Baker Lake who invited me to participate in their graduation ceremony in August 2015.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honour to have been part of the graduation ceremony for the five graduates. They are:

Katlyn Amitnak;
Rachael Aupaluktuq;
Holly Kayuryuk;
Eugene Sivuraq, and
Tonya Tagoona.

The graduates also received awards that day. Katlyn Amitnak received the Governor General's Award, Holly Kayuryuk received the CGS Computer Award, Tonya Tagoona received the AREVA Award, I presented Eugene Sivuraq with the Pilimmaksarniq MLA Award, and Rachel Aupaluktuq received a Northern certificate.

Mr. Speaker, all the families were extremely proud of the accomplishments of the graduates. I would also like to thank Hamlet of Baker Lake and the Baker Lake DEA for sponsoring events for the graduates.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the success of the Baker Lake graduates. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

Member's Statement 063 – 4(3): Congratulations to Whale Cove Soccer Teams

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Nunavut and Arviat, as well as the people of Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of people from Whale Cove who came here last month. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate soccer teams from Whale Cove. Recently, there were boys' and girls' teams that went to Iqaluit for a tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that it was the girls' team from Whale Cove that took home the gold. I'm sure they trained really hard to win the gold.

I'm sure that these types of sporting events are really good opportunities for our youth from different communities to meet, make new friends, and learn from each other. This is what it's all about.

Mr. Speaker, the team members were:

J.C. Jones
Caitlyn Oklaga
Lyla Marie Hapanak
Dianna Okalik

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mary Angoo
Emma Jones
Pearl Kriterdluk

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say "thank you" to their support team, their coach,

Keesha Jones, and their chaperone, Chris Jones.

(interpretation) Thank you. I would like you to join me in congratulating them, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.
(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

An Hon. Member: Way to go!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 064 – 4(3):
Problems with Boarding Home in
Iqaluit**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to state my constituents' concerns. I have repeatedly spoken out about this. In our community and throughout Nunavut, we all know that many people make use of medical boarding homes.

There has been an ongoing concern about the operations of Tammaativvik. With regard to the telephone system, especially for the disabled people who stay in their rooms, there aren't any attachments for the hearing impaired. If they are called, they don't hear the phone ringing when they're inside the room.

There are no hearing aids and the facility is not clean enough. These have been concerns of my constituents. The hearing impaired need assistance when they try to go outside and some of them are neglected when there's information needed to be passed on to the patients.

I will be asking questions about the concerns regarding Tammaativvik at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 065 – 4(3):
Second Year as an Elected
Member**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues probably remember that we were elected on October 28. It has been two years now and I appreciate that I am able to be with you here. I don't have much to say, but I just wanted to speak to that and for the two late arrivals, Alex and Pauloosie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 066 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Elijah
Tigullaraq**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents, Elijah Tigullaraq, for having recently been awarded the 11th annual Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this award was established in 2004 by the Council of the Federation,

which represents all provinces and territories in the country.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have had the honour and the privilege of knowing Elijah Tigullaraq and can personally call him a friend. I have known him for many years. His commitment and dedication to education, language, and culture is recognized throughout our community of Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I thank (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna (interpretation) for having nominated Elijah Tigullaraq for this award, and I ask all members to join me in recognizing him on his lifetime of service and accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 067 – 4(3): 2016 Plebiscite on Land Ownership

Mr. Hickes: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I was just finishing some notes and decided to make some of my preamble in Oral Questions into a Member's Statement. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss the land plebiscite that's right now arranged to occur in May of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut were entitled to revisit the land, the leasehold title structure of land use, this year in 2015, as outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. After I had been elected and when I was first informed of this plebiscite being held next year in

2016, I voiced my disappointment as our government had 15 years to plan for this event.

I consider myself an informed person, but I am not aware of all the pros and cons in converting to a freehold title structure. To date, I have not seen any information shared with our constituents to help them decide what method is best for their community.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was a question asked by George Hickes directed to me as the Minister of Community and Government Services. It relates to the capital plan for the francophone school in Iqaluit.

Question:

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. (interpretation ends) 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 (interpretation) École des Trois-Soleils.

(interpretation ends) 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.

Response:

(interpretation) The Department of Community and Government Services' Technical Services staff are working collaboratively with the Department of Education on this project. We are planning to hit the original date of April 2016. There is no change to that deliverable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize the person I used to work with when I was the Co-op manager in both Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. He works with Arctic Co-operatives Limited. Welcome to the House, Mr. Andy Morrison.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom

Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my fellow resident whom I have known for many years. (interpretation ends) He is the founding president of ITC. He has also been an MLA in the NWT legislature and an MLA in the Nunavut legislature as well. I would like to ask my colleagues to welcome Tagak Curley to the House.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the person who was just recognized, Mr. Tagak Curley, I remember at the time in 1975, I started working for ITC when he was the president and I remember very clearly that the land claims process was introduced when he was there. There was Prime Minister Trudeau sitting at the time. I cannot forget that at the beginning. Today, we are sitting in our Legislative Assembly because they were our true leaders and they were the first ones. Tagak Curley, be proud of him and thank him as Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

Yes, I would like to join in recognizing Tagak Curley, but he also remembers that when I was a young person, as a student in Kivalliq Hall, the MLAs went to speak to the graduates. I remember clearly that he was one of the speakers for the graduation of Kivalliq Hall telling us to have a good future, to get an education, and to help our fellow Nunavummiut. I remember it clearly that he spoke to us very well and I listened to him, so I am now a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much and welcome to the Assembly.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He has been recognized already, but I want to recognize him also because he is a fellow resident of Rankin Inlet, Mr. Tagak Curley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been a member of the Co-op Federation and I would like to recognize the general manager, Andy Campbell and the chief financial officer who is also here, Glenn Williams. I forgot the name of the third person. I worked with them a lot at the Co-op

Federation. I would like to recognize them while they're in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Tagak Curley and his grandchild. Tagak's father and my father were cousins. I don't usually mention this, but I have to do it, so I stand to say it. I welcome him to Iqaluit. He was also a resident of Iqaluit and worked in different capacities. Welcome here, cousin. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I, too, would like to welcome a visitor to the gallery, Tagak Curley's granddaughter, Megan Nester. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 075 – 4(3): Status of Social Assistance Review

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services has been conducting a review of income assistance programs across Nunavut, as the minister stated in the Minister's Statement. Community consultations were held in the community of Baker Lake in mid-September and a number of my constituents attended these meeting to provide input.

Can the minister provide an update on when she anticipates bringing forward the results of this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting information on that. There are still five communities we have yet to visit and we're planning to visit them in the coming months. It's because of the weather that we were kept from going there. We are hoping to be able to visit them before the winter session, and also to give you the results of the review at the winter session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand there are five more communities that have to be visited, but over 40 percent of all Nunavummiut currently access income assistance programs. In some cases, the monthly amounts provided through social assistance as well as the Child Tax Benefit and the Universal Child Care

Benefit combined are barely enough for a family to survive.

Can the minister indicate whether she will be bringing forward an increase to the social assistance allocations in the new fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jennie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking questions regarding income support. The review is ongoing and for social assistance, they are reviewing the elders' benefits, daycare benefits, and the senior fuel subsidy. They are all being reviewed right now. In the month of December, the poverty reduction group will be meeting about social assistance. There are still a lot of things that need to be done, but we will give you more information at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that there are a number of meetings that are still going to be occurring.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Income Assistance Program is one of last resort and that the government seeks to encourage clients to work towards other means of supporting themselves and their families. I am confident the minister and her officials are aware that there are often limited opportunities for certain individuals to reduce their reliance on income assistance while, at

the same time, the prices for food, clothing, and other necessities continue to rise.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that adequate supports and resources will be provided to those individuals who rely on social assistance to feed and clothe their children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jennie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everything that is being said is being heard from the communities and we haven't visited all the communities yet, but we should have visited them all in the new year.

After that, we have funding from the bureau of statistics to do a consumer price survey. In previous times, we didn't know that, but as a government, we are keeping track of food prices now and also as to how Inuit are being helped through social services and social housing. All of that is under review, so I can't really respond fully to that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 076 – 4(3): Public Service Management

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

Whenever I ask the government to explain why the Department of Human

Resources was dissolved and its functions and personnel transferred to other entities, the response has been that this was a recommendation contained in a consultant's report that was prepared for the government a few years ago.

The minister alluded to this report just last week when he responded to my questions. However, that report was never made public, so very few of us in this House have actually had the opportunity to give careful consideration to the rationale for the recommendation.

Will the minister table this report in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current fall sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I don't know if I should thank her, but it seems like every time I answer a question, I get hammered in the newspapers by all these anonymous posters. There are a few non-anonymous posters.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that Human Resources was struggling for many years and the OAG report did come out in 2010. That was just one report that was taken into consideration by the Government of Nunavut of the day. We announced, if I get my dates correct, in budget 2011, that we were considering the restructuring of the government. We were going to review the government and look at some restructuring, which we did. We hired a consultant by the name of Ken Lovely. He worked with all

the departments, deputy ministers, and other officials in the government, and prepared a report.

That report was shared with MLAs and ministers of the day. I remember having extensive consultations and meetings with MLAs and ministers in Full Caucus. We discussed that in the House here and we went through the process that the government must follow to restructure government departments, and it was approved in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe it was tabled and since this is a whole new session, I would like to encourage the minister to table the report. If the minister does table the report, I am willing to read it with an open mind.

Is the minister open to the idea of at least looking at such models as an independent public service commission to address the issues that have been raised regarding the management of the public service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, again, Ms. Angnakak, I'm not sure where she is pressing on this.

Again, we restructured the human resources department. We amended the *Public Service Act* in September 2013 and strengthened the Act to protect the public service. We just opened up the

independent Office of the Ethics Officer on April 1. We have continued to upgrade, improve, and amend our Human Resources Manual and directives. We're doing a number of things that provide better oversight and management of our public service. We have said in this House many times that our employees are our most valuable resource. We appreciate the work that they do perform.

Again, I'm sure Ms. Angnakak has been a manager and an employee, and she will understand that being an employee or a manager in the public service or any entity is a challenge. There are entire fields dedicated to that in universities and colleges. They call it organizational behaviour with thousands of books or possibly millions of books. Everybody's got a theory on organizational behaviour and how employees, managers, supervisors, and boards of directors work together as a team, and that's what we're trying to do in this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping to hear that the minister would be agreeing to at least look at other models. There's always room for improvement for all of us.

I'm going to go on to my last question. Although it's not a substitute for structural solutions, dialogue is a good place to start. My final question is this: when did the minister last have a face-to-face, sit-down meeting with the president of the Nunavut Employees Union to exchange views, concerns, or

ideas about how to reduce conflict in the workplace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with Ms. Angnakak. There's always room for improvement and that's what the government has been doing over the years, from 1999 right up to the present, and continuing to recommend improvements.

The cabinet approves all kinds of changes to internal reorganization of departments or external arrangements through the collective bargaining process as we work with our unions. My officials in the Department of Finance and other departments meet with union officials all the time as to how to administer and manage our government.

I haven't sat down at a detailed, comprehensive meeting with Mr. Fennell. My office is always open. I sat down with him on Friday, although that didn't get picked up by the media. They don't look too closely at good news events, but we sat down and signed the new collective agreement for the Qulliq Energy Corporation employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 077 – 4(3): Elders' Issues

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

In 2011, the Government of Nunavut's 2010-14 *Elders Program Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. When will the minister be tabling his department's updated strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague from Gjoa Haven for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, as to actually when would I table it, I cannot say today right now, (interpretation ends) but I will take that as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken this as notice. We will continue on to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak

Question 078 – 4(3): Assistance for Disabled Hunters

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the minister can respond to this. When full-time harvesters get injured and they are no longer able to hunt, would you provide support to those harvesters who are no longer able to hunt due to injuries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The Department of Environment views harvesters or hunters as employees. Once we have completed the review of the harvester support programs, we will be able to make a decision on how we can deal with that within the Department of Environment. We have a plan and we need to consult. It is part of our plan to consult with the public in regard to the question you just posed for the harvesters who are injured during hunting and how they can be provided support or compensation. This is not publicized as much as it should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I understand that you are saying there is such a program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just spoke about that program within the Department of Environment. It has the responsibility of ensuring compensation to the harvesters if they ever get injured while they are hunting. It starts from the community itself. Yes, we have a program under compensation and harvesters are included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the public is very interested in hearing about this, as to how they can be provided support or be compensated. What about the individuals who provide support to fill out the application? Where can the harvesters find the application forms? Who can provide them to help fill out the application forms for compensation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. Yes, as I stated before, the public does not know very much about this program. Yes, we want to publicize this program to the public where we provide support for harvesters. If there are individuals that would like to fill out the application form, they can approach their local HTO or the conservation officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 079 – 4(3): 2016 Plebiscite on Land Ownership

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

As I alluded to in my Member's Statement earlier, there have been a lot of questions around the possibility of a land plebiscite being delayed from May of next year. At this time, I would like to ask the minister what the status of the

plan to hold the land title plebiscite in May of 2016 is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. I believe we all are aware that during a Full Caucus meeting, we had a meeting in regard to the land plebiscite. We had an agreement at a Full Caucus meeting that the Nunavut government can take on the responsibility of the land plebiscite. We had agreed to the 2016 land plebiscite. That is how it is with the Department of Community and Government Services, using the Full Caucus motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since Full Caucus meetings are in-camera, I wasn't going to bring that up. My next question, although he didn't really answer the status of the plan, I'm going to assume that because he didn't say otherwise, the plebiscite is still being scheduled to happen in May of 2016. How and when will information packages be rolled out across the territory to assist Nunavummiut in making an educated decision on what is best for their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, when we first started working on it last year in 2014... . On April 16, 2015, they decided that the Department of Community and Government Services would take on the responsibility of a plebiscite. To date, we have been working on this issue to make sure that information is distributed to the communities and to make sure that Nunavummiut are fully informed by way of correspondence and by way of publications. We are now moving ahead with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some ways, I feel like I should be allowed to start over. I still haven't heard an answer to my questions, but I will move on.

I do have a concern. With capital recovery being the same between leasehold and freehold title systems, if a community does choose to move to a freehold title structure, what is the plan through Community and Government Services with the municipalities to limit costs to landowners on the title transfer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost 20 years ago, we held a plebiscite in Nunavut and the response was no. We have to be careful with the decisions of Nunavummiut. For that reason, we are

working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated because they have experience with plebiscites in the past too. Once we make a decision on the contents as to how the municipal land will be included, we will have to work on that. I know that next year in the springtime, there will be a plebiscite. It is evident according to the plans we have that we have to provide information and consult with the public and we're moving ahead with that. We are working with NTI at this time. Thank you.

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

Question 080 – 4(3): 2016 Plebiscite on Land Ownership

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask this question later, but since Mr. Hickes brought it up, I'll just ask the Minister of CG&S questions about the same matter on the land plebiscite.

It was decided that CGS is the plebiscite authority and the minister did state that he is working on it. Have they come to a conclusion yet as to who will be an eligible voter? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working with NTI on these issues and that is part of our planning in terms of who will be eligible to vote on the plebiscite. This issue has been raised a few times and we have heard various

positions on who should be eligible to vote on the plebiscite. We are working closely with NTI and Nunavut Elections on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he is working with NTI, Elections Nunavut, and the communities. Does the minister have a deadline of when this work in progress will have to be done? There is a timeframe for the plebiscite to happen, which I thought was April, but the minister stated May of 2016. Does he have a timeframe of when he's going to have an informative package for Nunavummiut so that they can have an informed vote? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have started that and I know that we're going to be working on it this month. We have to consult to make sure we hear from the communities as to who would be eligible to vote. Our staff is now planning that. We will have a better idea next month in regard to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that this is a work in progress, but I believe that there are some ground rules that would have to be

laid in the very beginning just so you will know what you want done with the plebiscite.

Is this plebiscite going to be binding or is it a non-binding plebiscite? For example, they had the liquor plebiscite in Iqaluit. It was non-binding. It didn't really matter what people said.

>> *Laughter*

And I just want to know: is this plebiscite a binding vote or is it non-binding? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The land plebiscite is totally different than the liquor plebiscite. Lands are very important in the communities within Nunavut and we believe that land is very important in Nunavut. I stated before that we will hear from the people of Nunavut on what their thoughts are. Once our staff meets with the public and consults with them, I'm sure we will have a better idea as to which way it will occur.

Also, NTI represents Inuit and I'm sure they will consult with the Inuit. I think that they will probably be different. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 081 – 4(3): Departmental Positions

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

Mr. Speaker, on June 1 of this year, I asked the minister questions about his department's vacant positions.

Mr. Speaker, as of this morning, the most current employment figures for the Government of Nunavut that are publicly available on the Department of Finance's website indicate that there are over 100 vacancies in the department, including nine vacancies in Pond Inlet. This information was dated as of December of last year, so I am hopeful that there has been some progress since then.

I would like to ask this question: which of the vacant positions in Pond Inlet have actually been filled over the past four months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very important issue and concern regarding vacant positions. I can't tell the member which vacant positions are in which community, but I can use an example of casuals being hired to fill those positions, and there are a very few to date. I can't tell you which communities have vacant positions and I will have to review the vacancy issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, we had a fire drill at the Legislative Assembly. As we're all aware, fire safety is a critical issue in Nunavut, which is why I have been asking about the status of the assistant fire marshal position in Pond Inlet for some time. It has been vacant for quite a while. Can the minister tell me today what the status is of this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. I can look into the status of the assistant fire marshal position, and there are quite a few vacant positions in the communities. I will inform the member once I get the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in December of 2013, I received written assurances from the government that the department's vacant positions in Pond Inlet would be filled "in the timeliest manner possible." Can the minister provide a clear explanation as to what specific problems are preventing the department from filling its vacancies in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Community and Government Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the matter and I will make sure that I provide information to the member as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 082 – 4(3): Certifying Specialized Medical Equipment

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, many of our health services rely on specialized equipment and diagnostic machines to address health issues. Can the minister clarify what steps are taken to repair and certify a piece of specialized equipment when it is damaged or needs repair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Community and Government Services is the department responsible when we have to repair or purchase specialized equipment. We work together with their department to make sure that the specialized equipment is repaired or replaced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been brought to my attention that the certification for Nunavut's specialized medical equipment can only be done at a facility in Ottawa. Can the minister confirm that this is the case and, if so, how is the certification process followed for equipment based in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the specialized equipment, they are all certified. We have to make sure that all the specialized equipment is in proper order. They are certified outside of Nunavut. It is something that we can't alter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am concerned that some of our health centres operate with damaged equipment, such as broken oxygen lines, damaged dental equipment, and faulty X-ray machines as well as other specialized machinery that needs repair. Can the minister clarify what steps his department takes to ensure that all health centres are equipped with properly functioning and certified medical equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We make sure that all specialized equipment is operating and in working order, especially the diagnostic machinery. This is a very good question and we will make sure to look into the matter and make sure everything is in proper order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 083 – 4(3): Handbook and Training for Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit

Mr. Joanasi (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues. My question today is for the Minister of Education.

He made a Minister's Statement this afternoon regarding the handbook and training of *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijit*. It also indicated here that he will be working together with the school counsellors and will consult the counsellors for input into the handbook.

Are you only going to be consulting with the school counsellors or are you going to be consulting with other individuals, for example, elders or organizations based at the community level or mental health workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. From what we have put together, we are going to be providing training for school counsellors. They will be using Inuit values and beliefs as a base. They're going to be trained by certified workers.

As I stated earlier, in February 2016, there will be regional conferences in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. Those are the three communities where the regional training will be delivered. All school counsellors are going to be attending those regional conferences. Our foundation will be Inuit values and beliefs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe he answered my question, but I will move on. I was going to ask a question regarding Inuit values and beliefs. Are you also going to be consulting with the regional Inuit organizations so that this handbook will be available to the public? Are you going to be working together with the Inuit organizations or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit also? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are going to be courses on *Children's Grief and Children's Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour*. Those courses are going to

be part of the training program, including counselling. There are very well-trained counsellors out there and we will be utilizing them. We are currently developing training for *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijit* on *Children's Grief and Children's Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour*. We will be providing qualified teachers for those training programs. We're not just going to be hiring an individual off the street. We're going to use specialized trainers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very thankful that the Department of Education is working on the handbook and training for school counsellors, as well as providing training on *Children's Grief and Children's Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviour* so that we will know how to handle children who have been traumatized.

The school counsellors have very heavy responsibilities, but I would like to ask the minister about the training that is going to be provided. I believe you're talking about a handbook. Are these handbooks going to be just for the school counsellors or are they also going to be made available to the teachers and student support assistants or members of the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm mainly talking about school counsellors. This

will be directed more towards the school counsellors. We also train other staff like student support assistants. We have different staff members that we provide training for in our schools. This will be directed mainly towards *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit*. However, we know that this will be beneficial to the students in all the schools. *Ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* have their own roles. As I stated earlier, there are other staff members in our schools that are provided training in other areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Question 084 – 4(3): Caribou and Polar Bear Surveys on Baffin Island

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and my colleagues. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, there is a real concern in Nunavut on Baffin Island. Polar bears and caribou are studied by helicopter, and this is very bad for wildlife. For how many years will this kind of study be going on for caribou and polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he's talking about two different types of wildlife. I understand the concern of how the studies are conducted. I will look into it and get a definite answer,

and I was going to do that. I still do not have the information on the exact status of how it is today. I will look further into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a real concern and it has to be dealt with. This is for the protection of caribou. We put a total allowable harvest together, and the caribou are surveyed by helicopter. This damages the wildlife. Caribou live in a quiet environment that is totally different from ours. This totally destroys their hearing ability.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister do something about the Nunavummiut's concern of the work of NWMB? Can he push for this noisy system to be slowed down and stopped? That is how we can heal the animals. Can the minister inform me on how it is today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Government of Nunavut, especially the Department of Environment, wants to do a survey, they have to put a proposal together for this purpose, including the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's particular ways of doing the surveys and what types of surveys they are going to do. Are they going to walk the land or go by snowmobile, airplane, or helicopter? Either way, these are put in their proposals for the people who want to do

surveys and have to be approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Right now, regarding the polar bear surveys, I think it was last year that I told them about less intrusive survey methods, less intrusive to the lifestyle of the animal. We have moved forward on this. As I mentioned, I have to look into the survey methods for caribou. When they do caribou surveys, which method do they use? As I stated earlier, I don't have that information yet and once I have the information, I can bring it forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. From personal experience, I will tell the minister about the survey done on narwhals and these are other things. As a real Inuk, I don't like wildlife surveys. I am totally against them. They destroy the animals and I'm speaking the truth. In our community, they use nets. They do their studies using this method and they were putting satellite trackers on them from the time they started the surveys. They don't use noisy machines, but they use nets. Since the survey started, there are no narwhals coming to our community anymore. I would like to see the surveys stopped altogether or slowed down.

Mr. Speaker, we, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and the Department of Environment are directing the animals now and they say the animals are dwindling. That is totally not the case. The message for surveys in the future is don't worry about them getting depleted;

just slow down the surveys. Mr. Speaker, while he sits as the minister, can he encourage that surveys to be slowed down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question as it was more of a comment. I apologize. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With polar bears, caribou, and narwhal, it is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that does the narwhal surveys. The local hunters and trappers organizations are the most involved. I don't know if they overstep the communities, but all I can say is maybe I can look into his concern with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and I will discuss this with him. I think he's talking about the Baffin region or the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Management Board and I will look into them too. Whether it's the Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, or Grise Fiord HTO, I will look into the exact status of this program and why it went ahead. I will look into those organizations also concerning this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 085 – 4(3): Departmental Positions

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

On May 27 of this year, I asked the minister questions about her

department's vacant positions. The Second Session ended shortly thereafter, so I never really got a full answer back.

As of this morning, the most current employment figures for the Government of Nunavut that are publicly available on the Department of Finance's website indicate that there are over 40 vacancies in the department, including almost two dozen vacancies in Iqaluit. However, it appears that none of these vacancies are currently being advertised. Can the minister explain why this is the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. This summer, we filled some of the positions, some of the positions are being filled right now, and there are interviews being conducted right now for some positions. There are various reasons why there are 43 positions open currently. There is roughly 68 percent filled as of now. Slightly over 50 percent of those are filled by beneficiaries. To date, it has been a slow process. Mr. Speaker, they are presently being filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On average, every GN position costs around \$115,000 in compensation and benefits. Forty vacant positions work out to approximately \$4.5 million

in lapsed salary expenditures. Can the minister clarify how the department is using its savings from unfilled positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Some of these positions are filled by casuals. We do not save a lot of money that way because a lot of positions are filled by casuals, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Joe wants me to hurry up. He wants to ask questions.

>> *Laughter*

My third question, I know that you said that you have been looking into hiring, but if the minister can clearly state whether or not her department is currently under a hiring freeze or not, just to confirm for the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague. She's asking very good questions. My department is not under a hiring freeze at

the moment and we have opened three permanent positions this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 021 – 4(3): 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor Commission

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2014-15 *Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor Commission*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation, Minister Peterson.

Tabled Document 022 – 4(3): 2014 Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Annual Report

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2014 *Annual Report of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions [for First Reading of Bills]. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Notice

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 30, 2015, I will move that Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Notice

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 30, 2015, I will move that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Ms. Angnakak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to

waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 8 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Ms. Angnakak.

Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Cambridge Bay, that Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 9 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – First Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Cambridge Bay, that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 9 has received first reading.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Angnakak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 8 can be read today for the second time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Ms. Angnakak.

Bill 08 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Cambridge Bay, that Bill 8, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* to halt the accrual of pensionable service during the period in which a member is suspended.

It also amends the *Official Languages Act* and the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* to require the approval of the Management and Services Board for the direct appointment of employees.

It also changes the length of the term of the Languages Commissioner from four to five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion has been carried and as Bill 8 is a House Bill, it is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 9 can be read today for the second time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Second Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* and the *Plebiscites Act* to implement recommendations made by the chief electoral officer in her report on the 2013 general election.

This bill also provides the Management and Services Board with broader regulation-making powers in respect to elections and plebiscites, requires the approval of that board for the direct

appointment of staff, and in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, it provides for the chief electoral officer to continue to hold office after the expiry of his or her term until reappointed or until a successor is appointed.

It also repeals the prohibition on the sale of liquor on election day and includes a few minor housekeeping amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion has been carried and as Bill 9 is a House Bill. It is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2) with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:19 and Committee resumed at 15:46*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Welcome to the sitting, all the (interpretation) Nunavummiut who are listening. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 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, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 3 and the review of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education and the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we continue with the capital estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2016-2017 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Yes, please.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The officials here with me today are my Deputy Minister, Roy Green, and my Assistant Deputy Minister, Darren Flynn, to my left.

Chairman: Thank you. We're at Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Services. J-3. We finished off with Mr. Mikkungwak yesterday. Does he have any more questions? Mr. Joanasie. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here, it explains that for 2016-21, fire trucks will be replaced. (interpretation ends) As the minister is well aware, (interpretation) in Rankin Inlet, we have been requesting a new fire truck replacement. Therefore, I will be asking questions in regard to that. (interpretation ends) Which community will get the first 2016-17 fire trucks replacement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Rankin Inlet and Cape Dorset. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Moving on to another topic, the arena for Rankin Inlet is in the capital plan, but it states that it won't be started until 2017-18. According to the detailed information, it's in the planning stage right now. I thought we were already in the design stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, the capital estimates that are planned to that year for Rankin Inlet, according to our knowledge, they have not started working on that, so it's in the planning stage as of now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Since you say that it's in the planning stage, since everyone is aware that the hamlet's municipal office is lacking space, rather than deferring it, would you be able to build an extension to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Originally the community requested a community hall complex as part of the arena. Back in the last mandate, it was decided that it was approved by the Legislative Assembly for an arena only.

The design phase is somewhat delayed because, during the discussion with the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, they insisted that they needed a community hall expansion as well as the arena.

Back on March, 23, 2015 when we were in Rankin Inlet, it was agreed with council at the time that we would proceed with a standalone arena in the community and that once the arena was built, given that the existing complex within the community is structurally sound, then we would take a look at doing an expansion of the community hall in that facility, but that would only happen when there was funding available in the capital plan to be able to bring this forward for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Services. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to get clarification. I won't take too long. Yesterday, members were asking questions regarding sewage lagoons. I used to ask questions regarding the community of Naujaat. The minister responded to this issue on May 28.

I would like to know what the status of the sewage lagoon is for Naujaat because it has been many years now that they have been pouring raw sewage on the land. There is no sewage lagoon and the collection of sewage is getting huge and the population is growing and the number of houses is increasing.

For that reason, when the minister responded, he said they're planning on it

and they would put the RFP out for the sewage lagoon and that its construction would start in 2016. Will it be constructed this coming summer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank you for asking that question again. With the sewage lagoon in Naujaat, the Nunavut Water Board has approved the plan. We will be tendering out the work and I expect construction will begin in the summer or early fall of 2016.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister for explaining that. I also have another question on the capital estimates. Though it's not in the capital estimates and I don't see it in the plans at all, the other community that I represent is Coral Harbour and they are lacking garage space. There are municipal vehicles being stored outside in mid-winter because of the lack of garage space.

They said that they had constructed a new four-bay parking garage, which was constructed by the Co-op when they had the fuel delivery contract. I believe that's what I heard from the Hamlet of Coral Harbour. The O&M of the garage was cost-shared between the municipality and the Co-op. This facility is still quite new. Since the Co-op doesn't have the fuel delivery contract, they have asked the hamlet council if they can use 100 percent of the garage.

When this kind of issue arises, and I know it's very expensive to construct a four-bay parking garage, do you provide support? Could you provide support as soon as possible? I hope you understand where I am coming from. Mr. Chairman, if I'm going outside the capital estimates, please let me know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I personally have no idea what the member is talking about. As a minister for this department, I have not been briefed in regard to that, so I'll have my deputy minister respond to the question if he can. I would like to refer the question to the deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, our department has not received any requests on the arrangements for the parking garage in the community of Coral Harbour. Basically what I can do is, when we go back to the office, we can follow up with the Hamlet of Coral Harbour to see what arrangements are being discussed. Certainly nothing has been brought to our attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The SAO of the community discussed the issue with me while I was in the community. At my last changeover flight there, he spoke about his experiences regarding the Rankin Inlet district office, that the only time results accrued was when he and I

personally visited their office did they respond about our concerns. There seems to be a communication breakdown as the Rankin Inlet office rarely responds to any queries. They have been informed about this issue in the past, but they seemingly brush it off.

With respect to your commitment to look into this, I am very happy to hear about that, especially if it can be accomplished in the short term. This isn't much of a question but more of a reminder. I wonder why the Rankin Inlet district office isn't communicating with you, especially the way things seem stalled until pressure is applied through this public forum here. Perhaps the officials are not at the office enough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's absolutely nothing more than a comment, so thank you and that's it.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my officials look into that to see what the situation is regarding the member's comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you all done? We're on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Communities Services. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, gentlemen. I know that the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet has prepared a five-year needs assessment and I believe that they developed that in conjunction with your department.

One of the things that's identified in there is a request for a separate hamlet office because the current office is apparently too small now and their chambers, as we all know, is not all that big either. Consequently, whenever there's a hamlet council meeting, the only people sitting around the table are guests and hamlet councillors. There's really nobody from the public there.

Have you started moving on some of the needs assessment that was provided to you from the hamlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had the opportunity to meet with the senior administrative officer from Chesterfield Inlet on Friday this past week during the NAM AGM, and we did talk about the needs assessment. I gave them an update on the status of the capital planning process. They were advised that they need to continue to include those as a priority in their integrated community sustainability plan and work through the Nunavut infrastructure advisory committee to bring forward those projects for consideration in the capital plan.

At this point in time, the five-year capital plan is fully prescribed, so we haven't been doing any planning studies to bring new projects forward. At this time, when there is funding available, this committee will certainly evaluate

the request from Chesterfield Inlet in terms of their five-year needs and rank it in with the remaining GN requests for funding through the five-year capital plan. We continue to bring this forward through the ICSPs and work closely with NCIAC committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response from the deputy minister. The other concern that was identified is the lack of gravel sources within the municipal boundaries in the community.

Although there is a gravel source identified not too far from the community, that source is outside of the municipal boundaries. In order to access that, the community has to build an access road to a lake as far as they could go where there is a river crossing that they need to get across. Every summer, they put culverts to continue building the access road to some recreation areas and also to be able to access gravel for the community. However, every spring, the culverts get washed out.

One of the items that the community has been requesting is whether the GN would be able to look at providing a bridge so that the crossing can be permanently fixed. I'm just wondering whether the department has done any work with building a bridge at that river crossing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the member for his question and for voicing

his concerns. There are more communities in Nunavut that have identified the gravel issue and the availability of gravel. It's something that's very important to our department. Regarding access roads, we have to repair them, especially after the spring meltdown.

In regard to the bridge, I will refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is having ongoing discussions with the senior administrative officer within the community of Chesterfield Inlet. At this point in time, we haven't been able to move forward to construct a bridge at this point in time simply because the funding is just not available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can commit to ensuring that funding is made available as soon as possible for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It could be reviewed by our staff to see what type of bridge is required. I will make sure that it's reviewed with you so that we can look at an appropriate bridge that would be suitable. We can consider it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just go on to a different subject here. As the department knows, the water source for Chesterfield Inlet is a reservoir that was built some years ago and it is filled with water every summer from a source which is about three kilometres outside of the community. However, the piping that is being used now is the original piping that was placed when the reservoir was built, and I understand that that pipe is leaking like crazy now. I wonder if the department has ever considered replacing that piping so that there's less wastage of water when the water is being pumped into the reservoir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlet office in Chesterfield Inlet is working with our department. From what I understand, the leakage is not that bad, but my staff will work closely together with the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page J-3. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister. I believe we're including page J-4. Maybe I just didn't see it, but with the small capital, I believe it is \$5 million. Is there something in writing that states what that amount of money will be used for? Did you give us that information or did I just overlook it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that regarding the \$5 million. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$5 million is broken down in three sections. \$883,000 a year is provided to each municipality as block funding to do some minor repairs like bridges and improve access roads. A percentage of that goes to all communities. We do have \$2.86 million that we use for minor repairs to hamlet offices. This fund is used to replace boilers. It's used to replace any windows or roofs or repairs that are required or any emergencies that could come up in the course of the fiscal year. That's primarily what that money is used for. Then we have the \$250,000 a year that is used to replace the small vehicles in communities that are required for staff to use for maintenance and informatics staff to travel through the various departments to undertake work with respective departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I asked the minister: did you give us that information or did I just overlook it? Was that information given to us? I still haven't seen it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. That information was given to the committee chairs. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize for the mistake. No, you didn't get that information. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to look at a large amount of dollars and what we have said repeatedly is that we don't want to just say yes to your requests. We always tell you that it would make your life easier if you give us detailed information. It will make it easier for you and for us if we have detailed information in front of us.

You're requesting \$5 million. We can't just approve that. That's a large amount of money and we don't want to just say yes to every request. We have to know what it's going to be used for. Let me ask the minister: can you commit to providing that information to the committee members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Yes, that information will be provided. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we can delay the approval of the \$5 million until the information is received.

Yesterday, I raised a question where I believe I was the first questioner. Perhaps I can return to the \$14 million we were discussing. I was told to look at the figures in the English version on

page A-IV-1. The purpose of the \$14,502,000 is written there. Perhaps due to my inability to properly read financials, I cannot just come up with \$14 million in this information. Is it just mixed up in there? Can I get further clarification on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the \$14,502,000 is as follows: the Coral Harbour project that was discussed yesterday, \$2 million for road washout repairs; for Gjoa Haven, \$3,700,000 for the hamlet office and \$1 million for the warehouse; for Hall Beach, a parking garage, \$2,200,000; for Kugluktuk, water treatment, \$3,100,000; for Rankin Inlet, utilidor system, \$200,000; for Resolute Bay, \$302,000; as we identified earlier, fire trucks replacement, \$500,000; and \$1.5 million for solid waste facilities. This is on J-4. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am confused. I'm not too worried about which communities the \$14 million is going to, but what I would like to know is: what is it going to be used for? I don't have the figures you just quoted in my papers. Don't we have them? The total does not come to \$14 million and what you quoted is not outlined in our documents.

Mr. Chairman, I have no idea now. Please give me direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will clarify that.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$14,502,000, less the projects that the minister just referred to, is part of the \$22,902,000 on page J-4. The list that he provided is the projects that are listed in J-4. It doesn't include the \$3.4 million for the City of Iqaluit nor does it include the \$5 million for small capital. Those are the projects that are on J-4, summarized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it completely unachievable for this \$14,502,000 to have a separate, standalone financial report? You are reporting an add-on to a previous report. You state that it is part of this past report. Is it that the contents in their entirety are too confidential to allow for examination or even the particulars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not so. As an example, look at J-4 as it has a tab 1. If we look in that tab contents, we can see the particulars related to the Coral Harbour road. With this set-up, it does indeed apply to the list I spoke to earlier and it is easy to document them separately, if the need should arise. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe he was alluding to the proper documentation. Mr. Minister, can you please show me where exactly this tab 1 is that you referenced? I cannot find it in my documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I regret not outlining it earlier as I just read out that page in front of me, that was addressed to my attention and that isn't part of the information in front of my colleagues. What I have does show clearly how the breakdown applies to the \$14 million in question. However, I was only using it as an example in any case. That is how they are identified and written and as per my earlier statement, you can see them. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the commitment for releasing the information. That is what I was talking about and if that had been understood, we wouldn't have had to waste time getting that information.

As an example, if the proper information was provided that members need to comprehend the presentation and if the information provided by the departments was clearly defined by purpose and funding, we wouldn't have to continually pry the missing information. Nonetheless, we need accountability due to it being public funds which we are debating the approval for. Let us all remember this underlying duty and never forget it is the public's money. With clear and concise information

presented, it is understandable and it makes the process easier. This is only a gentle reminder on my part. We will expect that information then.

Let me regress a bit here, Mr. Chairman. There is something not included in this section that I want clarification on, but it isn't necessarily financial in nature. If I am off on a tangent, you will correct me assuredly. I wanted to ask about the situation in our community of Pond Inlet and elsewhere, I imagine, where government owned buildings sit idle, mostly decrepit buildings past their useful lives or else too expensive to repair the buildings due to old insulation now considered hazardous.

In particular, this insulation called asbestos in English was used extensively when buildings were first constructed up north, but we now know the consequences of this compound on humans. These decrepit unused buildings in our communities, Mr. Minister if you feel able to elaborate, what exactly are your department's plans for them? Here I refer to old buildings containing the hazardous substances owned on paper by this government. As the minister of the department that owns these buildings, what are your thoughts on the matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too much information about the old buildings. I want you to know that. I'm not too aware of old buildings that are owned by the government. My deputy minister will further clarify this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular item came up during the standing committee appearance this week when I attended the write-offs, along with the Department of Finance. It was raised during the standing committee appearance that there are a number of old buildings that haven't been dealt with in communities.

After I came back to the office, I then instructed my property management staff to undertake a listing of all empty buildings in the communities to see whether they're still owned by the client departments and if that's why they're not surplus. I have also advised all the deputy ministers as well. I'm expecting to have that listing available in the next two to three weeks.

Once I determine who owns those buildings, if they're vacant and they're no longer required by the client departments, then they will be surplus and we will take the appropriate action to see what the next steps are, whether they can be re-serviced for other uses or if they're such a hazard, then we would undertake the appropriate action to decommission those buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a piece of good news and I am thankful that we can expect that information. Although we continually raise the issue, some members keep speaking to the old, decrepit, abandoned buildings in our communities. I imagine this will become part of the equation. As an example,

buildings have been decommissioned due to a hazardous substance being found used as insulation and here I speak of (interpretation ends) asbestos, (interpretation) as it is called in English.

Based on your last comment, if a building is no longer considered useful, it could be donated or that the department no longer using it can take that request into consideration. Would that apply in cases where a building has been declared a contaminated and hazardous building and it can no longer be owned? I meant ownership by government. Shouldn't they declare that danger before making it available to the public, knowing that it contains hazardous substances? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer that to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once I get the list back from all the communities of vacant surplus buildings that are out there, the first step we will do is to do an environmental site assessment of those properties and we will do a conditional assessment to determine the structural conditions of those buildings. We need this information before we can determine if it can be surplus for other programs and services or the condition poses such a risk that we have to decommission the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name

on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. One of my colleagues asked this yesterday, but I would like to get more clarification on it.

In your opening comments on No. 5, it says, (interpretation ends) “Additionally, officials within my department continue to work with Canada to implement projects under the New Building Canada Fund, which will provide \$256 million of federal funding from 2014 to 2024.” (interpretation) My first question would be: (interpretation ends) how much has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: None. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) That’s quite a lot of money and obviously they have to make proposals to access it and the proposals have to be given in at a certain time. How many proposals have you received so far? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): What proposals for what? Can you explain your question? Thank you.

Chairman: For clarification, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that when you

look at the New Build in Canada Fund, it’s got to be proposal-based. Have any proposals been submitted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): This question was posed before. We have submitted capital proposals for the New Canada Building Fund. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand it has been submitted. Is that in consideration of all the 25 respective communities in Nunavut with a debt wall included in the picture? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I will have my deputy minister respond to that, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can’t remember the exact month it was, but in 2014, the Department of Finance issued a call letter to all departments to bring forward a list of projects for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund. That includes all 25 municipalities as well.

The project lists that were brought forward were ranked and prioritized by GN officials in terms of basing them on the GN ranking criteria and based on the ranking criteria, there was a list of projects that we submitted to Infrastructure Canada for consideration. To date, we’re still waiting for

preliminary approval back from Infrastructure Canada, with the exception of the Pond Inlet marine infrastructure, which we did get an approval in principle for that particular project. For the remaining ones, we still are waiting for Infrastructure Canada to make that decision.

Based on the discussions that I had with Infrastructure Canada on August 24, because of the election and change in government, they did not expect us to get any more movement such as preliminary approval until some time in January 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. My colleague from Naujaat had asked a question in reference to hamlet garages where they service hamlet vehicles, whether it be water trucks, sewage trucks, or anything pertaining to the municipality.

My question here is in reference to that. In my case, there is a hamlet town garage which has been inspected by a WSCC officer and is almost deemed condemned by the inspector. In order to eliminate that title so that it could still be used, where would the funding come from? Would it be under small capital projects or what type of block funding to deal with the WSCC matters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for raising that issue. I will have my

deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of this particular situation. Certainly I haven't seen anything that has been brought to my attention. What I will commit to the member is that we will contact the hamlet office in Baker Lake to find out what the situation is and to determine what, if any, financial support that we could give back to the hamlet. I'll have to discuss it with the hamlet just to see what the nature of the situation is because I'm not aware of it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to those WSCC inspected matters or to do any repairs, what funding would that fall out of? Would it be small capital or minor capital? What blocking funding area would that come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the repairs are less than \$250,000, this would be one of the expenditures that we would consider under the \$5 million small capital. If it's in excess of \$250,000, then we would likely have to look at some other funding arrangement or whether we would look for

supplementary appropriation to get funding to take care of the necessary repairs. Until I know the condition of the building and the estimate of the costs to repair it, there are different pots of money that we can take a look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the official. That sort of leads into my next question. Your department's proposed 2016-17 capital estimates include \$5 million in small capital projects. This funding has been ongoing for a number of years and it is allocated to minor projects, including building and equipment upgrades, vehicle replacements, and municipal block funding contributions.

Can you indicate if there are any necessary minor projects that your department cannot undertake within its current small capital budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These different concerns are dealt with under small capital and we have seen different things happen in the past, but I would like my deputy minister to explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a breakdown of the \$5 million for all the expenditures that we allocated for the past fiscal year, which we're in the process of sharing with the chair of the committee.

At the same time, the \$5 million for this fiscal year is to address situations like the member from Baker Lake indicated. If there is a situation where we need emergency monies to take care of it, then we utilize this money up to a maximum of \$250,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand right now that the magic figure is \$250,000. What if it's in the case where it exceeds \$250,000? Would that fall into the category of your block funding capital estimates that you included \$883,000? Does that change from a small capital project and then you go into possibly an amount of \$883,000; would that be considered block funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Premier was in the community of Baker Lake, I did have the privilege of showing him the particular garage that I'm referencing. When the Premier did the visit, he was going to bring it to the attention of the Minister responsible for CGS. Mr. Green probably does recall this.

When you look at the block funding of \$883,000, that policy was inherited from the GNWT in 1999-2000. A new policy is in the works to upgrade this program. To date, has your department completed

a new policy for its block funding program and when will it be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is in the process now of doing the evaluation of the policy that was adopted from the GNWT. We will be doing an evaluation. Once we have a review of that policy and it's deemed that there are necessary changes that need to be made to that policy, we will certainly follow the GN process for updating the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're discussing infrastructure or buildings, when the Premier was in the community of Baker Lake, I gave him a tour and there was a building that I showed him which was in the department's hands, CGS, which I believe now is a surplus to the hamlet. I learned that the Department of Community and Government [Services] still uses it as a warehouse.

Last year at that time, I asked the Minister of CGS at the time and I did ask that search and rescue was interested in that particular building. What is the consideration in that aspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for bringing that up. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did receive some information on that particular building in Baker Lake. What I have done is I have asked property management staff to look into this building and I have also asked my Protective Services Division to look at that request as well. It's something that we initiated a couple of weeks ago. Hopefully I'll be in a position to get back to the hamlet within the next two to three weeks to address the request for that particular building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will I be privileged to that information and documentation so that I can keep my search and rescue committee informed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to another topic. In your proposed 2016-17 (interpretation ends) capital estimates, your department includes \$250,000 in small capital

funding to replace a number of vehicles throughout the territory. Can you provide details on the number and types of vehicles that each community will receive during the 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will elaborate on that.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a list that I can provide the member or the Chairman for the vehicles that were bought out of last year's funding. This year, once the funding is approved, typically what we do is we go to each department and take a look at their fleet. Based on the seven-year lifecycle, we bring forward a list of projects for consideration. I don't have this information available with me right now, but once we have a list of vehicles that are going to be financed, I certainly can share that with the member.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that with this \$250,000 in small capital funding, you don't know how the funding will be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically each year, of the \$5 million small capital, we allocate \$250,000 to replace the ordinary vehicles within the GN fleet. Those vehicles are used for our maintenance staff to travel back and forth to the different client departments within the community, for after-hours calls. They're used for emergency management at the fire marshal's office. We use them for our Informatics Division that provides services to client departments.

What we do is we've got an asset management software database that tracks the cost to maintain the vehicles and the age of the vehicles. When the costs of repair and maintenance exceed a certain percentage, we basically go out and replace those vehicles. This is what the fund is for; it's to use to replace aging smaller vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I thank you very much for your response. In addition, looking at Nunavut as a whole, I know that Nunavut has a very cold environment and the winter is longer than the summer season. When we're talking about summer, it's either going to be a pickup or SUV vehicle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this to my deputy minister because it's very difficult to answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The types of vehicles that we purchase depend on the nature of work that those vehicles are used for. For argument's sake, for fire or emergency vehicles, we typically need the designed four-by-four trucks, plus we need the proper equipment or radio equipment if they need to go into those vehicles.

Informatics, for example, if they have to go to different departments to repair their computers and some other technology, then typically we use smaller four-by-four vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak, you have 34 seconds.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and do my question here in less than 34 seconds now.

In its proposed 2015-16 capital estimates, as we're talking about vehicles, your department includes \$2,867,000 in small capital funding for building and equipment upgrades. However, your department's substantiation sheet does not indicate what projects will be undertaken during the 2015-16 fiscal year. Can you provide a breakdown on how this funding has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned earlier that we do have a detailed list compiled for what this money was spent for in the past fiscal year, and we did commit that we would share this listing with the Chairman of the committee.

In terms of 2016-17, we can't predict whether an emergency is going to happen. Basically, I can't give you a list because this is just a fund that's used to do minor repairs if something should happen throughout the year. If we didn't have this minor capital, that means we would have to continue to come back to the Financial Management Board on a regular basis looking for funding to take care of those emergencies.

Basically, what I can say is that it is used for building maintenance. It is used for boiler replacements. It is used in a situation where an emergency comes up within a community that needs to be addressed immediately. Those monies are typically spent each year. We do keep a record of all those expenditures annually, so we are able to provide the members on an annual basis what those monies have been spent for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$24,902,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now we're on to J-5. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question on this. Since spring, our government has been saying that the price of fuel is cheap at this time and they pre-purchased the fuel for Nunavut. As soon as the minister and his officials said this, I started expecting the fuel price to go down instantly this coming fall. Can we expect to see the fuel price going down in our communities some time in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're now working on the fuel prices. I was asked a question during the official sitting. The officials will first have to look into how much gasoline and other fuel products such as diesel fuel we have left over from last year's delivery. Once we figure that out, we will be making an announcement on how much the fuel prices will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us when we can expect to see the fuel price to go down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to carefully consider this. Perhaps this coming month, we will be able to make that announcement to Nunavummiut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just to remind members, questions on capital estimates. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): It's okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Next on the list, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fuel tanks are usually replaced and they do improvement work on fuel tanks. I would like to ask a question in regard to the Naujaat fuel tank farm that has been improved. I believe that they are constructing a fuel tank farm in Coral Harbour. With that, do you also include a fuel dispenser where they pump fuel to the vehicles or where the vehicles gas up? Would it be for fuel like gas or diesel? Do you include the dispenser or pump-out when they start working on the fuel tank farms? I'll ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to your concern. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some situations where our tank farms are aging tank farms, we don't have separate dispenser units for gasoline and usually they can only dispense one product. If the diesel truck is being filled, they can't dispense gasoline at the same time. As we expand and upgrade our tank farms, we are putting gasoline dispenser units in the community so that when we're dispensing any other

product, it's not impacting the dispensing of gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I am asking about these dispensers is because I am wondering if that equipment is included with the updating or renovation of the tanks, or I assumed they were included as capital items.

To cite this example, in Naujaat, we have only one fuel dispenser that services the local fleet of vehicles, whether it is heavy machinery requiring this fuel we call (interpretation ends) diesel (interpretation) in our dialect, plus vehicles requiring gasoline and they can only be served one at a time due to having only one (interpretation ends) ticket meter (interpretation) in English. The ticket meter servicing both singularly isn't particularly effective, especially one meter serving both fuels requiring dispensing, either (interpretation ends) diesel or gasoline.

(interpretation) Doesn't the department review local situations to try to improve them? Sometimes it is the harvesters who pay the price as they have to wait long periods to buy fuel, especially with the increasing number of vehicles. Obviously, we have a fair number of vehicles now. Has the need to have separate meters been reviewed for our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not

the first time that I have heard about this issue, but I will refer the question to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we expand and upgrade our tank farms, we are certainly putting in separate dispenser units. In order to do it with some of the tank farms without major upgrades, there's still a fair amount of work that is done to reconfigure the piping so that we can be able to have a different dispenser. Our approach for now as we move forward, as we upgrade our tank farms, is that we take this into consideration and we actually do have separate dispenser units for gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the deputy minister for his response. If we're going to be reconfiguring the tank farms, especially the new dispensers, how long will it take to get dispensers set up in all the tank farms in all the communities? How many years would it take to do that kind of upgrade on the tank farms? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

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

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, as we do upgrades on the dispensers of the tank

farms, we are installing separate dispenser units. I can't give the member a timeline on when all communities will have a new gasoline dispenser unit. This will be determined as we upgrade the tank farms and as the funds become available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On J-6, there is a line item for Sanikiluaq for \$100,000 for bulk fuel storage capacity increase. In previous years, over \$6 million has been spent on this project. When I left the community about 12 or 14 days ago, they were still welding and building tanks in the community. I'm just wondering if the department can give us an update today on what the completion date is for this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the dates personally, but I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on my knowledge, the new tank that they're building this year should be commissioned to be able to do resupply. I do know that the vessel is in Arviat and that when she's finished, she's going back into Sanikiluaq. That's my

understanding, but I'll have to get some more clarity for that. The vessel will be discharging fuel into the new tank later this month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want that update to be sure that we do get a resupply soon because we're getting late in the season and I know there's still a lot of construction being done on the tank. I would just like to thank the minister and his officials for that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Mike. Sorry. We're on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if gas dispensers are capital items because I don't know the value of them, but Mr. Mapsalak asked about gas dispensers and it was allowed, so I'll ask.

I'm just wondering if they have any plans for updating or getting different gas dispensers for Arviat. Every time one goes down, it takes anywhere from six months to one year to have it repaired and then we're stuck with one dispenser for the whole community. Right now, they're both repaired and both working well, but is there anything in the plans to get a more robust or better gas dispenser? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer

your concern to my deputy minister.
Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to be able to inform the member that we did make a commitment to purchase the more robust dispenser units. Some are in Rankin Inlet. They have been ordered and they should be in the community within the next three to four weeks. That's my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it's just my hearing, but he said he ordered for Rankin Inlet and I was asking about Arviat. Can he clarify that, please? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy, please respond. It's for Arviat. Thank you.

Chairman: Are you done? Thank you. We're on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Division. Total Capital Expenditures. \$6,950,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to J-2. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Details of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$31,852,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed that the Department of CG&S is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, closing comments.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for dealing with the capital estimates for our department. I thank you very much. I would like to thank you for your concerns and your questions.

I would especially like to thank our deputy minister and my assistant deputy minister for responding to some of your questions.

Regarding the documents the standing committee wanted, we will make sure that you get the documents that you requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and officials out. We will be taking a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:12 and resumed at 17:20

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

Chairman: Welcome back. I would now like to ask the Minister of Education if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do, please. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me to my left is my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and to my right is Barry Cornthwaite, Manager of Capital Planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present the proposed Department of Education capital projects budget for 2016-17.

Under our current government definition, capital projects are any improvement that increases the value and life expectancy of a building.

With 42 schools throughout Nunavut, this represents a significant capital investment. Our schools host a total of 8,612 students from kindergarten to grade 12: 1,638 in the Kitikmeot region, 2,682 in the Kivalliq region, and 4,292 in the Qikiqtani region.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital budget for 2016-17 is \$26.28 million. The majority of the \$26.28 million for this upcoming

fiscal year will be allocated to a number of existing projects.

Capital projects across Nunavut that will continue during the 2016-17 fiscal year include:

Renovation and addition to the Qiqirtaq School in Gjoa Haven is in its final year with a budget of \$3,630,000. The project includes five additional classrooms, an expanded gymnasium, complete with change rooms and the stage, a daycare, and a special needs washroom. Those will be the additions for the Qiqirtaq School in Gjoa Haven.

Work is continuing on the new high school project in Igloolik with a budget of \$12,855,000. The new school will have 12 classrooms which are made up of seven standard classrooms, one language classroom, one multipurpose classroom, one science classroom, one library/computer classroom, and one trades classroom. Again, the design includes a special needs washroom and a daycare.

The Inuksuk High School was a unique renovation project that took place over five years during summer breaks. The project is complete and we have budgeted \$100,000 for the final year of a three-year warranty review.

The new high school project in Naujaat is in its final year with a budget of \$2,700,000. The new school will have 12 classrooms which are made up of six standard classrooms, one home studies classroom, one trades classroom, one science classroom, one multipurpose classroom, one business classroom, and one language classroom. The design

includes a special needs washroom and a daycare.

I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) The Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure [Project] will continue with a budget of \$800,000. This project involves replacement of Internet-capable devices that require regular replacement to ensure they are capable of working with updated software, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART boards, and printers.

The budgets for the school construction projects in Baker Lake and Arviat have been realigned to allow the department time to review future school enrolments.

We have budgeted \$5 million for the ongoing lifecycle repairs initiative. Lifecycle items are the major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air handling units that need periodic replacement based on length of time these items should last in a building. (interpretation) In collaboration with the Department of Community and Government Services, this initiative allows us to prioritize issues within our schools and prepare a repair or replacement program in a proactive manner. These projects are approved by the deputy minister.

Mr. Chairman, my department has a minor capital budget. This budget covers projects that are primarily health and safety related as well as small projects not identified in the capital planning process. We have budgeted \$925,000 to cover the repairs, renovations, and upgrades under the minor capital budget

for the 2016-17 fiscal year. These projects are approved by the deputy minister.

Each year, we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2016-17, we have budgeted \$270,000 for approved requests.

Mr. Chairman, we have worked hard to move forward with the recommendations made in the Auditor General's report on safety of schools and child care facilities in Nunavut.

All licensed early childhood facilities have received first aid kits, carbon monoxide detectors, and emergency evacuation backpacks that contain first aid kits, foil blankets, flashlights, and emergency contact information cards.

(interpretation ends) All our schools now have wall-mounted EpiPen training kits/storage units, emergency response guides for allergic reactions, the Crisis Response Manual, the Emergency Response Manual, and the Fire Safety Manual.

Mr. Chairman, through our regional school operations offices, we work with schools and district education authorities to develop effective document collection and storage practices so we can show compliance in the areas of fire evacuation drills, fire alarm testing, and fire inspections. Certainly, this information will be included in the Safe Schools Manual.

(interpretation) That concludes my opening comments. I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion as we review the Department

of Education's capital budget for 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2016-17 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2016-17 include four community-specific projects which are ongoing from previous fiscal years and four projects for which funding will be allocated to meet various Nunavut-wide capital needs during 2016-17 in the areas of information technology, ongoing maintenance and repair, and for such items as school buses.

Mr. Chairman, as we are all aware, the Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset burned down in early September, at the very beginning of this school year, reducing the department's current education infrastructure stock from 43 schools to 42 schools. This is a devastating loss to the community as well as to Nunavut as a whole.

I would like to commend the minister, his staff, and the staff of the Department of Community and Government Services for working with community representatives, the district education authority, parents, and students to address this issue quickly and efficiently. It is also important to acknowledge the

contributions from across the territory and other parts of Canada which have helped the students to be able to continue their academic year with as little disruption as possible given the circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, the tragic destruction of Cape Dorset's school brings home the need for safety and security for our schools, our students, our education staff, and the community at large. The standing committee notes that a number of planned expenditures under the department's proposed 2016-17 capital budget will address safety issues and members fully support the department's efforts in this area. Specifically, committee members have noted that a number of the department's proposed initiatives will directly address deficiencies highlighted in the Auditor General's 2013 report on the safety of schools and child care facilities in Nunavut.

The standing committee recommends that the department continue to provide regularly updated action plans documenting its progress on addressing the Auditor General's recommendations and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes the Department of Education's longstanding commitment to include daycare space in any new school built in Nunavut. However, with the lack of new school projects appearing on the government's five-year capital plan, many communities still face the growing need for safe, secure, and comfortable daycare spaces. Currently, there are a number of communities

which have no operating child care facilities whatsoever. This situation must be addressed. Early childhood education is critical to the success of our education system.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates that the process for planning, designing, and constructing a new school is a time-consuming one, usually well over five years from start to finish. The committee recognizes that the current practice for prioritizing capital projects for schools takes into account such factors as current student enrolments and existing school capacity.

However, members encourage the department to put additional emphasis on community population trends and future needs as part of its capital planning process. Members have further noted that final cost projections for some projects appear to change from year to year. While cost estimates are understandably refined through the planning and design process, members encourage the department to provide additional information to clarify and explain how projected changes in cost were determined.

Standing committee members have noted that a number of projects that were listed in previous five-year capital plans are no longer listed as future projects in documents accompanying the Department of Education's 2016-17 capital estimates. While members recognize that funds need to be realistically allocated within any given fiscal year, it was felt that the government needs to be more transparent in providing information to community representatives regarding the

status of projects which may have been realigned or deferred.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the committee to discuss his department's draft capital estimates for 2016-17, the minister and his staff addressed the issue of housing for education staff. Members appreciate that the ability to hire and retain staff is affected by the availability of adequate housing, which in turn has an impact on the quality of programming that can be delivered to Nunavut's students. While it is recognized that the government as a whole faces many pressures with respect to housing needs, standing committee members encourage the minister to work closely with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation on establishing a long-term housing strategy for education staff across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, computer technology is becoming a standard tool in the delivery of education across Canada. Members are in full support of the minister's plans to update equipment across Nunavut's schools as technology evolves.

The standing committee recognizes that the success of using modern technologies relies on access to adequate bandwidth and such components as dedicated servers in individual communities. Members support the department's efforts to work with the Department of Community and Government Services in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have

questions and comments as we proceed.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. The floor is now open for general comments. There being none, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page G-3. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his staff. Within the opening comments, it's got the IT Infrastructure Project involving the replacement of Internet-capable devices. It's a question that I frequently bring up and I'll bring it up again. Do all Nunavut schools have adequate access to the Internet and effectively access relevant learning resources and, if not, what steps are being taken to improve Internet access? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleague for asking that question. The first question, not all schools have that. However, let us be aware that we are always working to get them all connected, but they don't all have it yet. We have started to look into which will be the priority through our prioritizing plan and what equipment needs to be changed in Nunavut schools. Right now, not all schools are Internet-capable, but the majority of them are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I take every opportunity I can to highlight the very important need of Internet

access and bandwidth access across the territory, and I realize that the Department of Education isn't the lead department on that, but I think it's one of the most highly impacted.

We all realize that Internet access has become an important tool in many institutions and workplaces across the world, if not this territory. To what extent does Nunavut's curriculum and educational programming rely on the use of computer technology? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. However, right now, we don't have a good response to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand that and like I said, every opportunity I get, I'll be highlighting the importance of increasing bandwidth across the territory.

I'm just going to go into earlier this year, one of my fellow MLAs received communications as Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development regarding the preplanning studies that were approved under Community and Government Services' budget. In that correspondence from the Minister of Community and Government Services, it has a couple education projects, the Resolute Bay gym addition stated as the department's third priority and the Iqaluit Trois-

Soleils addition designated as the second priority.

I think we all realize, with the recent occurrence in Cape Dorset, the impact on the capital budget it's probably having for your department. My first question would be: how are those priorities impacted by the incident that happened in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for asking for more information on that. Yes, the communities of Coral Harbour and Resolute Bay, as the member mentioned, are both still under the preplanning stage. École des Trois-Soleils in Iqaluit is also still in the preplanning stage. Like we stated, preplanning will be completed in the spring of 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I don't have the audience I had when I had originally asked the Minister of Community and Government Services the question, what I was trying to get to at that point was the planning stage, like you just stated, is going to be completed in the spring of 2016.

Who gets consulted during that process? Do the DEAs or, in the case of École des Trois-Soleils, the CSFN get consulted on the scope of work that's being put into the preplanning to see what renovations or additions need to be completed to meet the needs of the school?

Again, I'll use the École des Trois-Soleils, but also the Resolute Bay gym addition for size. I know a lot of schools have different sizes. Do the DEAs or the CSFN get consulted on the scope of work under this preplanning study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have to keep all the DEAs properly informed, including the École des Trois-Soleils board. We will keep them informed and also consult with them further. We keep them informed as to what is planned and we need to hear from the DEAs as to what they envision for the future.

Like I said, we try to keep the DEAs properly informed. As to which community, we have to talk about that as well and as to what programs will be introduced in the schools, we work with the local DEAs and CGS as well. We do keep the DEAs and the French school authority informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm just going to step into the staff housing impact and the volatility that the current enrolment formula has on staffing for schools. I know there have been some concerns brought to the attention of the special committee as well as to other Members in the House and I'm sure to the minister on the accuracy and the timing of the enrolment formula.

Outside of housing, what steps or options have been explored by the Department of Education to deal with the staff housing shortage specifically for education? We have all heard stories of teachers that are forced to share accommodations.

The Department of Health has recently initiated a practice where, when they build a new health centre, they have a component for staff housing off site. I'm just wondering: has the Department of Education ever explored that as an avenue to meet the needs of their staff outside of the staffing allocation provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work closely with the DEAs in regard to that and we work closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We worked with them just recently in regard to housing. I know that the Members of the Legislative Assembly are aware of the fact that the teachers have to share staff units.

We are very pleased to say that after we heard from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, they have already set out how many staff units will be going to the communities. For example, in Whale Cove and Kimmirut, they lack staff housing units, but we work closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

With the Department of Health, they differ because they are geared for emergencies. They are needed in the communities, but the teachers do take off during the summertime for their

vacation. There is a bit of a difference between the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

With that, we heard very good news that the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the fiscal year 2016-17 has set how many staff housing units will be constructed. They will be providing support to our department because a majority of the communities will have staff housing and it will be very beneficial to our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. The next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome and good afternoon. My first question is the Iqaluit high school renovation project that has been a multiyear project done over several phases, I think, throughout the summers. I would like to ask the minister if there have been any warranty issues to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we have. We have the flooring and seams. Those are the two areas that are under warranty. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us the status of that problem then? Are they going to use the next summer to fix that

or can they do that while school is in now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the month of December, we're usually given presents and gifts. The work will be done in the month of December. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope not on Christmas Day.

>> *Laughter*

Keeping in line about schools, do you have any other communities being considered for school additions or renovation projects currently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I identified some of the communities, but some communities are under preplanning and they indicate the community. For example, Coral Harbour is in preplanning. We have already identified those in our report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in looking at Iqaluit's growth, I'm wondering how many years down the line you feel it will be before Iqaluit will need a new school, either elementary or high school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. First of all, at the Department of Education, we look at the future and we look at how many potential students will be enrolled the next year or beyond that year. We review and do a forecast for our future. For example, in Iqaluit, Joamie School currently... . Sorry, I can't really see. It's at 86 percent capacity; École des Trois-Soleils is now at 82 percent capacity; Inuksuk High School is at 59 percent capacity; Nakasuk School is at 64 percent capacity; Aqsarniit Middle School is at 54 percent capacity; and Nanook School in Apex is at 48 percent capacity.

If you will remember, when we say that when the capacity is at 85 percent or above, we start considering constructing a new school. Also, as I stated before, we look at the number of students enrolled in the school and we look at the capacity that is filled. We also look at the age of the school, even though the capacity might not be at 85 percent. Arctic Bay's school is very old and even though it's not filled to capacity, we have to start considering replacing that school. We have to start considering replacing that school, whether the building is too old and when it reaches 85 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that have come to my attention, especially with the schools in Iqaluit, is where the school is situated and sometimes it's very difficult to get in and out because of the traffic, for example, Joamie School. My

granddaughter goes to Joamie School and when we drop her off or pick her up, it's what I would consider kind of dangerous because there are so many vehicles going into the school, out of the school, you got the buses, and then you have the children running out of their vehicles and going into the school.

Maybe in the future when you design schools in Iqaluit and perhaps in the other communities that are a little bit bigger and have more traffic, I think you would really have to think about a proper drop-off space. The way that Joamie School is now and even the middle school to some extent, it gets very crowded. I'm wondering if you could perhaps take that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. Of course and I agree with the member because as the Department of Education, safety is very important and it's our priority for safety issues. I am very pleased to state that close to Joamie School and Aqsarniit Middle School, there's a sidewalk now and there's a crosswalk too so the vehicles have to stop and I am very pleased that it's there now.

It's evident that the vehicles will be increasing and we will have to look into this very carefully. Let's be aware that for Joamie School, safety issues are very important to that school too, and the parents are allowed to pick up their children after school. There are safety issues and yes, the schools have to be safe. Sometimes the parents can go pick up their child rather than the child going

on the bus. Yes, it's true that we need to look at the safety issue of our students very carefully. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm grateful that the minister will take that into consideration because I often go and get my granddaughter and you know, it's a wonderful school and that, but it just makes me a little concerned when I do see the number of private cars, such as mine, there to pick up children and then the buses are coming in. It's just a comment.

The other thing in regard to designs of schools, now, I definitely haven't gone to all of the schools in Nunavut, let alone all the schools here, like I don't know the ins and outs of every school. A couple of years ago, I went with you as the minister to the Nanook School where we talked about the need for the breakfast programs. They showed us where the kids eat and it's an open space, but there are no real tables or anything and kids sit on the floor.

When you are looking at designing new schools, I think the reality of the day is that schools will be offering programs like breakfast or food programs. That's just the reality. Can you take that into consideration when you're designing new schools that, even for elementary schools, you need an area for children where they will be safe and comfortable eating a meal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

the member for her question. Yes, in our schools, we usually have breakfast and lunch programs. The majority of the schools use their classrooms for breakfast and lunch programs. The meals are taken into the classroom (interpretation ends) in most of our schools. (interpretation) I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Under small capital, it's just because I live in Iqaluit, I live near the middle school and I go for a walk every morning with my dogs, and I see that the middle school siding does not look good. It looks like it is deteriorating or something. I see that siding is part of the considerations under small capital. I'm wondering if anyone has brought that to your attention yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first say that we're now focusing on boilers and furnaces, but in regard to your comment, it has not been relayed to our department. I know that once it has been reported, we can look into it. It's the first time we have heard about that. We expect, no matter what school, it is to be reported. We welcome any report of the condition of schools. I'm sure that the officials will be able to look into that if we're informed by way of correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just can't find the

page where I did see it. Since consideration could also be siding for a school, that's why I brought it up. It's just me walking and noticing that. I don't know if that has been brought up officially.

The other thing that I remember and I haven't asked the school, but I remember when you and I went to Nanook School, one of the staff members was talking about the flooring, the old carpet and that. I don't know if anybody has brought that up to you. Perhaps that could also fit under small capital. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all.

Chairman: Thank you. That's just a comment. The next name on the list, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions, if I don't have any supplementary questions. I have asked this question repeatedly regarding the Coral Harbour school. I have also asked your department about what type of plans we have regarding the school in Coral Harbour, whether it's going to be delayed, or what the status is.

There is only one school in Coral Harbour and it has been an ongoing concern. CGS has also gone to do an inspection of the school. I was told at that time, because of the location of the school, it is established in a swampy area and the floor gets flooded and there is mould growing in the school. The last time I was there, we went to go see the school and I was told that they could smell the mould.

Is the minister aware of the situation in Coral Harbour and do you have any plans to remediate the school or to make sure that it's not a health issue? Is the minister aware of the situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for asking about the school in Coral Harbour. As I indicated earlier, it's in the preplanning stage, which means that the preplanning will be completed in March 2016. We have had meetings with the community of Coral Harbour and the first meeting was in 2014. There's another meeting planned for November-December 2015.

We recently heard about it and I haven't seen any correspondence regarding mould in that school. Our department is not aware of the situation nor have we seen any correspondence. There was one school that had mould, but we did remediate it. If there was a swamp underneath, we would fix it. I think it was the Simon Alaittuq School. We will have to get correspondence first about the mould before we can do anything about it.

I want to assure you that the school in Coral Harbour is in the preplanning stage and it will be completed in March 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I received that information from the residents of Coral Harbour as it's one of my communities. It's in a swampy area and it gets flooded

frequently. The minister also indicated that he will have to see some type of correspondence outlining the problem, but it's all recorded here. Isn't that enough? You've got the information now. Is it possible to send someone out there to do an inspection even before you receive any correspondence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services will be made aware of this problem. We usually get correspondence from the DEA about problems or concerns they have. As I indicated earlier, the Department of Community and Government Services will be informed and my deputy minister has written down the information, so we will get it going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for making sure that the information will get to the Department of Community and Government Services.

I have another question and again, because I visit Coral Harbour, I was informed that the school is in full capacity. Even the library is being used as a classroom. Have you been notified about the school being at full capacity? Have you seen the capacity percentage numbers? What percentage do they have to be at and what kind of percentage do you have for Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, the school in Coral Harbour is at 90 percent capacity. If you recall, Naujaat was at 104 percent capacity. We can probably look at Naujaat and the building of the school. We were using a portable classroom and we can probably do the same thing for Coral Harbour, to put a portable classroom there. We can look at that option if there is a need. The Coral Harbour School is at 90 percent capacity. We always make sure that we know the capacity in all the schools in Nunavut, so we know the capacity of the school in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We are on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his staff. My first question is regarding page 4 of your opening comments. You have budgeted \$5 million for the ongoing lifecycle repairs initiative.

Representing Baker Lake, members of the DEA and I went to go see the school. I would like to thank your department for working on the plumbing over this past summer and also fixing up the floor. That's at the Jonah Amitnaaq School. We were very pleased about the recent renovations.

There is one issue and I don't know how it's going to be resolved. I would like to urge your department to discuss this with Community and Government Services regarding the air handling unit. That's

my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. It has been fixed and it should have been completed already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Moving on to another subject, last year, they indicated that the middle school in Baker Lake is going to be built in 2016-17 after the DEA's request. It should be completed in 2018 and it would cost \$19.7 million. However, looking at the documents here for 2016-17 for capital projects, the Baker Lake middle school will be constructed in the coming years. It has been identified in the five-year capital plan for completion in 2017-18.

(interpretation ends) What specific criteria were taken into account when the department decided to delay the Baker Lake new middle school project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have set it up properly the way it is now. As I stated earlier, the tipping point for initiating planning for a new school is when capacity reaches 85 percent or more. Also, we annually review the status of the schools in Nunavut as well as whether any are approaching that

level, so we always keep the percentages up to date.

With respect to Baker Lake, for instance, looking back from 2012, Rachel [Arngnamaktiq] School was at 69 percent capacity, it was at 71 percent in 2013-14, it was at 72 percent in 2014-15, and it stood at 74 percent in 2015-16, so it's still below 85 percent. In our high school, the Jonah Amitnaaq School for the year 2012-13, attendance was at 92 percent and a year after that in 2013-14, it was at 71 percent and still decreasing.

It seems the main reason for this trend is due to the new middle school in Baker Lake and perhaps due to the realignment of students which resulted in carrying forward the previous enrolment percentages, although the actual numbers are much lower, and this is the issue faced by the schools. That is the reason why the situation is what it is today.

Also, with respect to Arviat, they are facing the same situation as Baker Lake, although we have studied each case with a fine-tooth comb. However, in conducting our studies as to why it seemed like attendance rates were dropping, that was the case we found here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Attendance is very critical in our education system and I wholeheartedly agree. I will definitely relay that information to my constituents and to the district education authority.

In the addition to that, my next question here is the total budget for the Baker Lake new middle school was estimated at \$19.7 million. The longer the project is delayed, the greater the likelihood the overall budget will change. Can the minister explain what factors will influence the total budget estimate for the Baker Lake new middle school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, that may possibly be the case obviously or (interpretation ends) possible, (interpretation) as that is the case.

Perhaps to add to the earlier remarks as to the status of the school and the realignment, the fact that it is (interpretation ends) realigned (interpretation) is because of our overall review of all our schools. As per my earlier statement, we review cases when the enrolment is above 85 percent. As an example, Taloyoak is currently at 87 percent enrolment while Arctic Bay has a very ancient school. Coral Harbour is at 90 percent. Further, if we look at the other school percentages, we get the figures on the actual enrolment rate at each school on September 30 of every year.

For September 30, 2015, we checked on the figures when the enrolment figures were completed. There was a slight increase from 2014-15 as it stands at 75.3 percent this year. As an example, it is a slight increase of 41 new students at Baker Lake. That was for the other school as the Rachel - I can never pronounce the name properly, although I want to say it correctly -

Arngnammaktiq (interpretation ends) Elementary School (interpretation) is currently sitting at 74 percent enrolment and the Jonah Amitnaaq School is currently at 76 percent. That comprises the latest statistics we have available from September 30, 2015. These are new. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are two schools in my constituency: the Rachel Arngnammaktiq School for elementary students and Jonah Amitnaaq School for the higher grades. I'll replace the question I asked earlier.

I consider education very important and it's the first priority of our government. I'm not putting my colleagues down where school construction is going on, but they keep increasing their budgets for Naujaat and Gjoa Haven. They should have been finished by now, but you keep adding to their budgets for the construction of the schools. If the middle school in Baker Lake keeps being delayed, the budget will keep increasing. I'm thinking about that.

I'm happy that you indicated the enrolment statistics for the two schools, Rachel Arngnammaktiq School and Jonah Amitnaaq School. The statistics for students returning is very noticeable.

My question now is, (interpretation ends) a year ago, this House approved funding for the Baker Lake new middle school project. What were those funds spent on and what is the current status of the Baker Lake new middle school project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really prefer to respond properly to my colleague and sometimes I am behind in my responses to his questions.

For the first question on why the figures keep changing from year to year for the work, (interpretation ends) the cost of construction (interpretation) increases the budget and the building (interpretation ends) codes (interpretation) that need to be followed change, which increase the costs for construction of the buildings.

In Baker Lake, as we stated earlier, this is in (interpretation ends) the planning phase (interpretation) and further details such as the design and the size of the school will result in moving forward. I want to ensure we all understand that this would result in a (interpretation ends) planning carryover. (interpretation) That's the language we use and this is part of government practices.

To use this example, if the school construction is going to cost this much over four years, as the construction is done in phases with the costs segregated, that is how the costs keep moving forward. Even upon completion of the school, there is still the (interpretation ends) warranty (interpretation) work that is an additional cost for the construction.

I hope I replied to your question and, if not, you can ask again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll do the next question simply in English.

On a number of visits that the minister did to the community of Baker Lake with a number of other ministers, I had clearly shown and gave a tour as to where the possible site will be, which the community of Baker Lake, along with the Hamlet of Baker Lake and the Baker Lake District Education Authority, has been planning for a number of years. I sure hope that the Department of Education takes that into consideration where a road has also been constructed by the municipality in anticipation of this new middle school. Does that have not merit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me return to my previous statement that the enrolment figures are the basis for our decisions on schools and here I am talking about (interpretation ends) enrolment (interpretation) as that is our base. As well, the funding for budgeted items can't be used for other areas and they remain there prior to the construction of the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wholeheartedly understand what the minister has indicated. My next question, when we're talking about enrolment, I know that the community of Baker Lake, the Baker Lake District Education Authority... . When we go into busing, which I believe is small capital, when we look at busing, the

community of Baker Lake requested a second bus. Where does that stand today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have seen the request and we have asked the capital managers to go to that site. The request from Baker Lake will be carefully looked at.

When a bus is going to be provided, we look at which grades need buses the most. There are special needs buses. We also look at the distance to the school for the students. We look at whether the bus is going to have storage space, if there are drivers available, and if there are contractors in the community. Those are the things that have to be looked at carefully when any community is requesting a bus.

I expect that in the next month, I will get information from those inspectors and we will look at the requests from Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for leading me right into my next question. When the ministers come to Baker Lake, I always advise them, "I'm going to have to let you guys go for lunch a little bit early because I got my boys to pick up from the Rachel Arngnammaktiq Elementary School," seeing that I consider education very important, but when I pick up my boys from school, and I see this day to day, disabled children are being brought to both schools, the Rachel

Arngnammaktiq Elementary School and the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School.

Is there a strategy to deal with that matter so that enrolment can stay high and at the same time, will the department take into consideration second busing in Baker Lake to enhance the education in Baker Lake as I will definitely be promoting students to go back to school in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my fellow MLA as well as all of my colleagues for ensuring that education is a priority. We take pride in their dedication. Our student body is something we take pride in and we want them to complete their education fully, and I'm thankful for that.

I can return to reviewing that again and we will conduct further reviews. As per my previous statements, in November of this year, I will be receiving a full report and what you just referenced on the need for a bus can be incorporated into that. As I stated earlier, if a school requires a special needs bus, they can submit their request and our department can support them in their request. As per my previous statements about the reasoning for the review and after completion, we can consider the comment you made just now to include it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak, 25 seconds to go.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know my time is running out.

>>*Laughter*

However, I am passionate about the middle school. Can the minister assure me as the MLA for Baker Lake, the hamlet, and the district education authority that the middle school will go ahead? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my colleague to know that I spoke with the chairman of the education authority, David Simailak, on Friday about the middle school and the fact that it has been delayed. He didn't have many questions to me at that time when I informed him. We can talk to the education authority members and hamlet council about this matter further, but as I stated earlier, everything is based on enrolment and the fact that there are fewer students enrolled is why the project has been delayed.

As to how can we engage the parents more, whenever I meet with the DEA, I encourage them to promote parental engagement so that parents can be more involved in their children's education and we always encourage them to do that. Like I said, I am open to meeting with them again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister

and your officials. Before I ask my question, let me first say this: as the Minister of Education, along with your officials, we were proud of your efforts when we had a horrible tragedy in Cape Dorset with the school burning down. Many of us don't know all the details, but listening to all the efforts, it sounded like you worked very well together with the MLA and education authority in Cape Dorset. We are proud of your efforts.

With what you mentioned earlier, sometimes you want to respond so well that you don't respond right away. Don't worry. There is no rush. If you want to respond properly, take your time and respond properly. I always want a good response.

I believe we're on G-4 in English. The first question I would like to pose to the minister is there are different kinds of schools that are being proposed to be constructed in Igloolik, Nauyasat, and other communities. I would like to ask this question. I believe it was last year when we were informed that for big buildings, such as health centres, they're trying to make the blueprint the same so that the price can be pretty much the same for the next one. They try to use a common design.

We know that the communities are different and the number of people is different in each community. We're talking about the blueprint of the building. Have you been doing that? Let me ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for posing that question. It's great when we're able to work well with other people.

In regard to your question, right now, it's the standard design concept that you are referring to. The concept is being developed. The standard design hasn't been set yet. We all understand that if you use one blueprint, you can't just use the same blueprint all over the place. It's not like that. What is talked about is the window will follow these specifications and the roof will follow the same specifications or the furnace room will have a certain specification as well. That's what we mean.

We haven't used that yet, although we have been talking about it. We are working with Community and Government Services and this is still being reviewed. We expect that in the spring of 2016, we will have a definitive plan. We haven't used the common design yet on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. Another question I wanted to ask was for small capital. That's what I refer to small capital. In Inuktitut, I call them things that don't cost as much.

In here, there's \$925,000 for repairs, renovations, and upgrades. I'm sure you have given us that information, but I haven't been able to find it. Can you show me where I can see these

documents? Just let me know what document they're in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. He's asking for help in finding the document. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stated that I would be sending you a letter, but I don't think that letter has been sent yet about what you're asking about.

Perhaps I should explain this in greater detail. The \$925,000 was set up so that the \$125,000 and the \$100,000 would be separate, but now we have combined them and that's how it's \$925,000 now. It is two pots of money that we put into one. If I can say it in English, (interpretation ends) in previous years, school assessments and special needs assessment projects were allocated funds separately, again as I said, \$125,000 and \$100,000 respectively from minor projects. Again, the standing committee suggested the three projects to be rolled into one.

(interpretation) I'm just giving that explanation; it's not really part of your question, but we will get the answer to your question a little later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be expecting that.

When we're talking about minor or small capital projects, I just want to hear: today, do all of our schools have

infrastructure that accommodates handicapped students? Are there schools that don't have wheelchair ramps? Do all schools have wheelchair ramps now? Are they all equipped to accommodate handicapped students? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. For those students that need more help to go to school, there is a (interpretation ends) school special needs assessment project (interpretation) that has been completed. We worked with the Department of Community and Government Services and we're putting together a strategy for the schools that need additional work to accommodate handicapped students. That is being put together right now. Obviously, once we get the information about which schools need more work, we will know.

I hope I answered your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure you answered my question. It's probably me not understanding your response. Let me ask again. Have you checked our schools to make sure that they all have infrastructure to accommodate handicapped students? If so, do all the schools have proper ramps to accommodate handicapped students? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost all the schools have been reviewed, but we're not done with all of them yet. That's how I can respond. We know it's very important. If there is a critical need for something like that, then we will use the small capital project funding that we have set aside for that purpose. We will be able to do something if there is a critical need to put in something like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. There is another one that has been on the books for a very long time, the renovation of the Gjoa Haven school. Is it finally scheduled for completion in 2016-17? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, yes, we will be able to complete it at that time. We expect that the coming fall of 2016, it will be completed for sure. That's our goal. Obviously at that time, in the fall of 2016, there will be an official opening. We're planning to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

I am trying to be very serious.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps this will be my last question. I would just like to get further clarification. As the minister stated numerous times, we have policies in place when we're considering building or replacing a school. I'll use the school in Arctic Bay for example. Although it's not filled to capacity, due to its age, they will have to consider building a new school.

If I say that our school is getting too old, just for example, for aging facilities, what criteria does it have to meet? Is it because of the safety issues or that there is mould? What criteria do you apply for old schools? When do you start considering building a new school? I hope my question was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We assess whether or not the furnace or boiler is too old, including the floors and the insides of the building. I cannot give you detailed parts as to when it is considered to be an old building. We look at the boilers and all the contents of the school. I cannot exactly tell you which one.

Using Arctic Bay as an example, the school was constructed back in... I can't remember when. Let's be aware that the Department of Community and Government Services also provides us information as to which facilities are aging and their department inspects the buildings and facilities and they provide

the information to our department or the community provides that information. There are various ways. The Department of Community and Government Services is usually responsible for providing information on aging facilities and that's when we start considering replacing them. There are various ways or criteria as to how and when we can start considering new schools due to aging facilities or their capacity. There are various reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. We're on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to welcome the minister and his officials. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Since we're dealing with schools, education, and the capital estimates, I hear about Arctic Bay and the school is old. I just want to elaborate further that there is a staff member who is elderly now. She started working as a teacher at a very young age in the community of Arctic Bay.

Do you use the age of the facility to start considering its replacement when you're considering constructing a new school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that I should be good at math since I'm the Minister of Education.

>> *Laughter*

Back in 1970, the school was constructed in Arctic Bay and back in 1998, it was renovated. The school was constructed in 1970. I hope I responded to your question. I didn't quite get the last part of your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the case and that's why I'm making a comment to that because it's an aging facility and I know that we will have to deal with that while I'm still a Member of Legislative Assembly. The facility is so old that the water is seeping to the floor and it now smells like mould. When it becomes mouldy, we start saying that it's "contaminated" and for the safety of our children, we wouldn't want them to be in a contaminated place. As the Minister of Education, have you heard from the school principal or the DEA if there's an emergency case in regard to this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for asking those questions. As I stated, it was renovated in the past and regarding the spillage of water, they have constructed a new floor and the mould odour was being dealt with the last time the floor was worked on. We have not heard of the issue that you just brought up.

I can say that Arctic Bay's school is very old. We are working with the Department of Community and Government Services on the plans for the school in Arctic Bay, but the floor

was renovated and they were working on the mould odour. We haven't heard from teachers or the DEA since it has been worked on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for providing that information to me. You didn't respond to my question. My question was: did the chair of the DEA approach you to say that the school is too small? I'm sure that the number of students enrolled at the school is below the capacity. I hope you can understand me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They haven't informed us yet. We haven't heard from the DEA or the principal of the school in regard to the question you just posed. The percentage of students enrolled is way below 85 percent. They're at 65 percent. It's quite low.

The facility is old and that's what we're focusing on. We haven't been informed whether it needs to be replaced. We are working from this end on its replacement because the school is old. I am very pleased that I will be able to go to Arctic Bay next month and I'll be able to see the school that you're speaking about first hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Quassa and your officials. First of all, I

would like to extend my appreciation for providing support to Cape Dorset during the stressful times. I know that it made national news.

In your opening comments, you stated that it's obvious the capital budget was set before the school burned down. Since the school actually burned down, how and when do you expect to start moving ahead with the new school for Cape Dorset? When do you expect to come up with a supplementary appropriation? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for asking that question. This coming week, we expect this to be set up, but I want the member to know that we have sent out the RFP to tender out the design for \$1 million. That's just the start. I can say in the House that in the future, we will be tabling the information on the new school.

We have already identified that we will request \$15.5 million under supplementary appropriation for 2016-17 and \$14.5 million for 2017-18 for our capital estimates. That will come forward, as well as \$3 million for the 2018-19 fiscal year for capital estimates. That will be our proposal for that fiscal year. In total, \$34 million would be proposed, but as I stated before, the initial proposal is \$1 million for the design of the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. While you're on the planning stage for the community, I was wondering if the DEA could be involved in determining the site for the new school as well as me, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Will you be working closely with us? That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, somebody went to Cape Dorset to have a meeting with the district education authority. They were just recently there to have meetings and to ask them what kind of designs they would like. We're looking forward to getting the details and we will make sure that you get the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his response. This was a question that I had asked earlier. At the beginning of our fall sitting, I asked if the Department of Education had looked at optional classrooms or whether they're looking at options of getting portable classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for his question. We have talked about the options; we looked at the interim ideas. It was one of the options that we had added.

Community and Government Services and the Department of Education were there and we talked about the options that were available, but obviously at that time, right after the fire, even if we had made a request, it would have been impossible to transport those portable classrooms this year.

It's obvious now that we're going to be reviewing the possibility of getting portable classrooms. If we're going to be using that option, they would only come in during next year's sealift. I know there are going to be ships coming in. During the shipping season, the portable classrooms would be getting in to Cape Dorset. It's too late in the year to order any and to transport them.

Community and Government Services are the ones responsible and they have the technical advisors to deal with (interpretation ends) the procurement, design, construction, and transportation to a sealift facility. It would probably take about six months. Again, even if we pursued exemptions from GN contracting, according to CG&S, it could probably be about three or four more months to get it up. (interpretation) With that, it's quite obvious that we're planning for next year instead of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for dealing with this matter. I would also like to thank the cabinet members who did a tremendous effort and worked together to deal with the fire and also for having meetings with the hamlet council and the DEA. I would also like to thank my colleagues for

giving us support. It became a great need to get a school. Obviously, we can't build a school overnight.

I'll move on to another subject regarding the issue of busing. Looking at the regions, could you also identify which communities have buses? Which ones have contracted busing services? Are we going to be able to get that information, not today but before the end of the session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will make sure that you get the information. My deputy minister has noted it. We will make sure that we provide the information to you and also to your colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): I would also like the information to identify who owns the buses. I would think that they're property of the Government of Nunavut through Community and Government Services. For the operation and maintenance of the buses, who pays for the expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I didn't understand your question. I didn't understand the early childhood education part, but I think I get it now.

I believe you're talking about buses. The Department of Education uses a contractor to provide the buses. We also

approve the RFPs regarding buses, but there are different uses for the buses. For example, we provide the buses and the buses are operated by... I'll use Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet as an example. (interpretation ends) We provide the contract. It's to a private contractor.

The second one would be where the department purchases a bus and makes it into a GN asset. A good example would be Pangnirtung and Pond Inlet. (interpretation) The buses are owned by the Nunavut government.

Another option we use is if the DEA buys the bus. It would be owned by the Government of Nunavut, but the local district education authority would sign an agreement on the care of the buses. The DEAs are responsible for the buses, for example, in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven.

We have three options we use regarding the operations of the buses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. If we look at the whole of Nunavut, I would like to get information on which communities have buses, which communities do not have buses, and all the other details regarding who owns the buses, who operates the buses, which ones are run by contract. That's the information that I'm requesting from the Department of Education and the minister had agreed to do so, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$26,280,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page G-2. Department Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$26,280,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed that the Department of Education is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do you have closing comments? Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleagues. The Department of Education has the full support so that our children will be educated. If we count the total population of the schools, they are at 30 percent. We have a lot of students all across Nunavut.

We thank you for your support and we will make sure that everything that we want to provide goes ahead. Also, if you have any concerns on anything to do with education, please make sure to let us know. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and staff.

Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2016-2017 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I will now call the committee meeting to order. Minister of Health, Minister Okalik, welcome. Let me first ask if you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. My deputy minister is on her way.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring the minister's officials in?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. (interpretation ends)
Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me to my right is someone you know, my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley, and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Kathy Perrin. They will be with me here at the table.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Stockley and Ms. Perrin, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I now give you the opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my

colleagues. I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2016-17 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The department has a number of capital projects planned to replace and renovate our aging health care facilities. Currently, 60 percent of the department's community health centres are 20 years of age or older.

For 2016-17, Health is requesting \$16.5 million for four capital projects. I will briefly provide details of each project.

The first capital project that needs continuing funding is the new Arctic Bay Community Health Centre. The first phase of construction was started in July 2015 and in order to continue construction, the department is requesting the \$12 million of capital funding that was set aside in last year's capital plan for 2016-17. The estimated total project cost is \$27.7 million, including the detached five-plex staff housing that will be constructed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation right beside the new health centre.

Ongoing planning and design for the new Cape Dorset Community Health Centre is the second capital project that needs funding. The department is presently looking to further enhance and improve on the design of new health centres to better meet the needs of the department and communities. The department is requesting \$1.5 million in capital funding for the design phase of the project. In the coming fiscal years, the department will be requesting an estimated \$25.5 million for the first and second phases of construction.

The last two projects the department is requesting funding for is \$1 million for small capital and \$2 million for ongoing lifecycle maintenance. The small capital yearly allocation is for the purchase of the department's medical equipment, vehicles, and furniture. I will provide you with a detailed listing of the equipment, vehicles, and furniture that we are planning on replacing in 2016-17 once the list is finalized. The ongoing lifecycle yearly allocation is for the minor renovations, repairs, modifications, and upgrades of departmental facilities. We also set aside some contingency funding for emergency repairs during the winter months.

In closing, the department's proposed capital plan for 2016-17 is in line with the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate of this government. Specifically, the capital plan is focused on aging health care facilities, which provide essential services to Nunavummiut.

I thank you all for your support on these important projects, and I welcome questions and comments from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2016-17 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

Standing committee members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2016-17 is \$16.5 million, which includes funding for two infrastructure projects and two blocks of funding for minor capital and small capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that replacing and updating community health centres across Nunavut is a long-term goal with more than half of these facilities more than 20 years old. The two infrastructure projects in the Department of Health's proposed 2016-17 capital estimates are to replace community health centres in the communities of Arctic Bay and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, the Arctic Bay project has been ongoing for some time and was initially to be built under a common design concept, including the new health centre projects in Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. Over time, it has become clear that adapting a common design to the needs of each community has resulted in steadily increasing costs, as changes to project parameters and budgets were required to meet each community's unique circumstances.

Members were surprised to note, for example, that the new Arctic Bay Community Health Centre will no longer include housing for health centre staff within its design. The newly revised plan now indicates that a standalone five-plex housing unit will be constructed near the new community health centre. The standing committee recommends that the department work very closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that the housing component of this project is completed in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were given to understand that the new Arctic Bay Health Centre will also no longer include a morgue. Members were somewhat surprised at this proposed change to the project, as resolutions passed by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities in recent years have repeatedly requested updated morgue facilities for all Nunavut communities.

While members noted that the department's second infrastructure project, to proceed with the Cape Dorset replacement health centre, has been included in previous capital plans, the standing committee was disappointed not to receive any further information of the department's future plans for any other projects in its 2016-20 five-year capital plan. The standing committee recommends that the department be more forthcoming with information regarding which projects it intends to proceed with in coming years.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to be of the view that the department's capital planning process should take a more proactive stance in preparing for impending needs in the areas of elder care, long-term care, respite and palliative care. For example, in past years, the possibility of including long-term care beds in newly constructed health centres had been addressed in the department's capital planning documents. Members look forward to reviewing the department's assessment of elder care needs across Nunavut when it is completed. Members would support the development of a long-term infrastructure plan for providing care for our elders within

Nunavut alongside programs such as home care and the operation of assisted living facilities.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's 2015-16 capital plan included a project to renovate what was formerly a children's group home in Rankin Inlet into a mental health transition house. Members have expressed some concern regarding the viability of this project and look forward to an update on its current status.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's capital budget includes blocks of funding for small capital projects and for ongoing lifecycle projects in its 2016-17 capital estimates. Members appreciated receiving details on proposed expenditures under these projects and look forward to further information once equipment needs have been assessed and prioritized. Members support those initiatives for purchasing specialized diagnostic equipment so that medical clients are not always required to travel far away from home to other jurisdictions in order to receive health services.

Mr. Chairman, it has been noted that small capital funding may include the purchase of vehicles for community health centres. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members again raised concerns with respect to the policies regarding local transportation services for individuals receiving health care. While it appears that in certain communities health centre vehicles could be accessible for transporting patients, this is not the case in other communities. Members would appreciate further clarification of the

department's policies in this area, particularly regarding the availability of vehicles, liability and insurance coverage, as well as the provision of specialized transportation for clients who face limited mobility issues.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. (interpretation ends) Well read. (interpretation) Members, let me remind you that the contents of Minister Okalik's opening comments are covered under the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

I would like to ask if there are any general comments. We will proceed. Let's go to page H-3. Health. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it's a fairly small budget and I just want to talk for maybe even only one question about what's not in the budget at this time. I think it was in 2014-15 when the Department of Community and Government [Services] did a bunch of preplanning studies. One of the preplanning studies they did was for the new health centre in Sanikiluaq.

In February of this year, I wrote a letter to the department asking for clarification on the preplanning studies, especially on the Sanikiluaq Health Centre. In his reply that I received in March of 2015,

and I will quote from the Minister of CGS' letter, it says that "The Sanikiluaq Health Centre business case development has been deferred until the department's first priority, the Cape Dorset Health Centre, is approved for design funds."

Today, in the minister's opening comments, he stated that the department is requesting \$1.5 million in capital funding for the design phase of the Cape Dorset project for the preplanning and design. With that being said, would it be reasonable to anticipate that a year from today, we will see money allocated to the budget for planning and design for a new health centre in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) As it is now, it is slated right after Cape Dorset, so that would commence, yes.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: It's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move to approve the budget right now and move on.

>>Laughter

I have no further questions.

>>Laughter

Chairman: Agreed? Not quite, eh? (interpretation) You seem to be done. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not quite.

>>Laughter

Earlier we were talking about common design being used as a cost-saving measure. The documentation from the Arctic Bay Health Centre indicates that some design features were removed in order to contain what was caused by this cost-creep. I'm just wondering if the minister can describe what details were removed from the design, and will this impact on service out of that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I must say that the biggest part was the removal of the staff housing within the health facility. The main change for that is savings. Whenever you add housing to the facility, you have to meet the health specifications when constructing the staff housing, so that adds a lot of cost. We separated it from the Arctic Bay project. That will save us money and reduce code requirements. That's the main change there.

The project also removed the morgue as a cost-saving measure. We're reconsidering that at this point in light of the recommendations of NAM. The cost savings are minimal, about \$60,000. At this point, we will reopen the discussions on that with the communities involved and we will make them happen where they're warranted.

The other one was post-disaster specifications and those are minimal. Those were the three main changes, I believe, that were put in place from Taloyoak to Arctic Bay. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm going to step into Iqaluit here. The Baffin Regional Hospital renovations have been delayed a number of times for a number of different reasons. I'm wondering if the minister can just update us on the current status of the renovations of the Baffin Regional Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have had good cooperation with other departments, primarily Education, using the dining room at the high school for the hospital. With those cooperative efforts, we are on schedule and we hope to move into the old/new part by December or January of next year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be remiss for not bringing this up. I have brought up the fact that I think long-term care and palliative care need to be provided closer to home. Has any consideration been given to having long-term care beds or palliative care beds in

the Qikiqtani General Hospital or in either of the other regional facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is palliative care at the current facility now, so we have met that requirement so far. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the project scope for the ongoing lifecycle. In health centres across Nunavut, it speaks to some security upgrades for staff who work alone or after hours. It talks about the project's scope. Does it give a timeline on how fast this project could be implemented to keep our health care workers safe in their work environment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is no set timeline at this point as those discussions are still ongoing and need more focus as we go. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a curiosity. In Chesterfield

Inlet, it talks about building cold porches on the backdoors of each staff housing apartment. I would assume that this would be a Nunavut Housing Corporation responsibility. I'm just questioning why this would be part of Department of Health's capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That actual project is attached to the health centre, so that's why it's part of the design feature for Chesterfield Inlet. If it were Arctic Bay, it would be a housing corporation project, but as it is attached to a health centre in Chesterfield Inlet, it's on the project description. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in the small capital part, it talks to a secondary defibrillator being purchased for Rankin Inlet. It leads my question to: does every health centre in Nunavut currently have at least one defibrillator? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It makes me feel a lot more comfortable.

Within that same budget line in small capital, it's got the diagnostic imaging of an ultrasound system. Right now, it says the current situation is two technologists and only one machine and the oldest unit is at the end of its life. I guess my question would be, if you're saying only one machine, it makes it sound like the need is there for more than one machine. Why are we only purchasing one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are trying it and seeing how it goes and if we need more, we will ask for more as we go. We're trying it out and seeing how it will function and how it will be used in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page H-3. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions, perhaps one, and that's mainly around the issue of morgues. This issue has been brought up to me several times and I'm not sure if it's your department that is the one wholly responsible. CGS might even have a role.

I did note in the substantiation sheet for the Arctic Bay Health Centre that one of the changes was that you took away the morgue that was going to be there. I'm just wondering how the department will address the fact that more and more communities are asking for this kind of service to be put in place. As a

department, how are you responding to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Morgues have been the responsibility of hamlets in the past. We added it on as a feature in Taloyoak and it appears to be okay. The cost is nominal. In light of the request from NAM, we are more than open to adding it on as a feature for new health facilities. If we work with the community and they want it in the health centre, then we will put it in. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: I think that's very good to hear. It's encouraging. Just as Education, I understand from the minister, they automatically put it in schools where they have a daycare automatically put in the design. Maybe that's something that the department can look at.

When you talk about if the community wants it, what does the community have to do to ensure that you know that? If there is a new health centre being built in their community or if you're making an addition, what are the steps they need to do to ensure that you are aware of that need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We work with the community and look at the layout of the community and work with CG&S and the hamlet. We will continue to work on that basis and make the appropriate changes as the community wishes. We try and stick to the original plan as much as we can for saving costs on the actual design costs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that the budget is not very substantial, so I'll get right into my questions. As the minister is aware, when it comes to health centres, it's a very touchy thing for me also within my community. Will the minister or his officials do a feasibility study visit to the community of Baker Lake to possibly consider a new health centre in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We prioritize the age and the condition of each of the health facilities in Nunavut. So far, Baker Lake is number five on the list. Baker Lake is on the radar. We will try and complete as much as we can as we go. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'll move on. I don't see this, whether it be small capital or large capital. Where do ambulances fit in the picture? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Ambulances are provided by the hamlets and the city. What we have done is buy vehicles for emergency purposes, the larger vehicles that can accommodate stretchers where there are no ambulances in the hamlets. We are providing that service on an emergency basis to transport those in need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. On small capital, I know that some health centres, I believe, last year, were to receive new X-ray equipment and other equipment that are used by the nurses or the visiting doctors. Will that be applicable to all communities, and will they all receive new X-ray equipment by this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we are moving in that direction. Digital X-rays are far more efficient and quicker for health

purposes. We have put one in place in Taloyoak with the new health centre there and we are planning to go on RFP for the rest of the communities in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let us proceed. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you remember in 2014-15, there was \$1.5 million set aside for the Department of Health for the children's group home in Rankin Inlet. It was going to be repurposed into (interpretation ends) a mental health transition house (interpretation) and to be used for that purpose instead. To date, there doesn't seem to be any work being done on it. When is work supposed to start on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The estimates were not right for the project. CGS is looking at this again; they're looking at the actual cost of it, so the costing is being redone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The old children's group home looks very good to repurpose into an elders facility. We have six Rankin Inlet elders that have to live in other communities. It would be utilized very easily. It would not even cost \$1.5 million to repurpose it for that purpose. Can't you reconsider your plans along that line? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is for a mental health facility and the plan is not going to be changed.

I have stated that we are turning towards helping the elders. Right now, we want to finish the elders facility in Cambridge Bay first and that would be attached to the health centre. After that, we will want to move our attention to Rankin Inlet and do planning for the elders in Rankin Inlet afterwards for an elders facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a growing need for 24-hour care facilities across Nunavut. What steps have been taken to address this need and plans for such facilities in the near future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned, we are repurposing the top floor of the Cambridge Bay facility to accommodate more elders. That would create more beds and care in our own territory. We're looking for more opportunities as we go. As I said, Rankin Inlet is one that we are looking at and we look forward to doing more work in that area and accommodating more elders within our

own territory. That is something we are working with.

Family Services is another department that works with elders, so we're working as a government to try and accommodate our elders in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We make comments or statements that we're supposed to take good care of our elders and support them. It's what we're supposed to do. Why is it that the idea of an elders facility will probably not become a reality for the next five or ten years? That building is there already. Why is it not being used for the elders right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Part of it was answered already, but I'll have Minister Okalik respond.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The children's group home has not been used for a long time. If it's going to be used for any purpose, it's going to need a lot of renovation. We're going to repurpose that for a mental health facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on Health. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$16,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. H-2. Health. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$16,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Health is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik, we have finished with your department. If you have any closing comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. Your comments are very well taken. Thank you for urging us to complete the projects which are incomplete. I thank the members for their comments because they're very beneficial to our plans and for our future. I'll leave it at that. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. I also thank your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mikkungwak.

>> *Laughter*

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

21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 29:

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
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 9
 - 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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:08*

