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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)
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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

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(Kugluktuk)

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Hon. George Hickey
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responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
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Compensation Commission*

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(Aivilik)
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Arctic College; Minister responsible
for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

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of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4321
Ministers' Statements	4321
Members' Statements	4324
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	4329
Oral Questions.....	4329
Motions.....	4345
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	4345
Report of the Committee of the Whole	4386
Orders of the Day	4386
Speaker's Statement	4387

A.

Daily References

Monday, November 4, 20194321

B.

Ministers' Statements

332 – 5(2): Minister Absent from the House (Akeegok).....4321
333 – 5(2): Update on Government System Outage (Kusugak).....4321
334 – 5(2): Funding for Inunnguiniq Initiatives (Akeegok)4322
335 – 5(2): Expansion of High School Diploma Exam Opportunities (Joanasie).....4323
336 – 5(2): Breast Cancer Awareness and Cancer Registry (Hickes).....4324

C.

Members' Statements

515 – 5(2): Movember Movement (Lightstone).....4324
516 – 5(2): Nunavut Development Corporation (Main).....4325
517 – 5(2): Supports for Our Elders (Nakashuk)4326
518 – 5(2): Polar Bear Quotas (Towtongie).....4327
519 – 5(2): 2019 High School Graduates of Resolute Bay (Akeegok).....4327
520 – 5(2): The Issue of Suicide (Kaernerck)4327

D.

Oral Questions

698 – 5(2): Status of New Contracts for Medical and Duty Travel on Scheduled Airlines (Akoak)
.....4329
699 – 5(2): Supports for Elders (Nakashuk).....4330
700 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure (Towtongie).....4332
701 – 5(2): Staffing in Nunavut Schools (Qirngnuq)4333

702 – 5(2): Water Security (Angnakak)	4335
703 – 5(2): Issuing of Cheques to Individuals/Suppliers (Main)	4337
704 – 5(2): Issuing of Income Support Payments (Rumbolt).....	4338
705 – 5(2): The Revitalization of Inuinnaqtun (Kamingoak).....	4339
706 – 5(2): Subsidized Housing and Homeownership (Lightstone)	4341
707 – 5(2): Addressing Issues with Elders and Youth (Kaernerker).....	4343

E.

Motions

055 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment (Main).....	4345
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F.

Bills

Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee.....	4346
Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021 – Office of the Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee	4361
Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee	4365

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Monday, November 4, 2019****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 10:03

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, I ask Member Towtongie to say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Member Towtongie. Before we go to the orders of the day, I would like to say happy birthday to my grandchild, Ursula Tatty Niego. I wish you happy birthday.

People of Baker Lake and Nunavut, continuing on with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Acting Government House Leader, Minister Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 332 – 5(2):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to advise members that the Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik will be absent from the House from November 4 to November 7, 2019, as more time is required for extended medical travel.

During the minister's absence, any queries related to Family Services can be directed to me and for the Qulliq Nunavut Status of Women to Minister Ehaloak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 333 – 5(2):
Update on Government System
Outage**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues on the government's network situation.

Early Saturday morning the Government of Nunavut network was compromised by ransomware. Once the issue was identified, the government took immediate action by isolating the network, notifying cyber security experts, and working with our Internet software providers. Our government's Information Management Division is still determining the scope and scale of the effects of the ransomware. Here is what we know for certain:

Mr. Speaker, Government of Nunavut information has not been compromised and has not been sent outside of the government networks. It is currently not accessible because of the ransomware process. There is no concern at this time with the loss of personal information or privacy breaches.

The entire Government of Nunavut network has been shut down until we can ensure that our system is safe from this virus. It will likely be at least a week before employees can get back in the system.

Essential services like health care, income support and corrections services remain open. Schools and education facilities are also open. There may be delays with other services. Services are being prioritized and right now the departments of Health, Family Services, Education, Justice and Finance are considered highest priority.

Nunavut government employees across the territory will be at work but cannot turn on their computers, access government email, or use their electronic files until they have been advised to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hard-working staff across the public service who have worked around the clock this weekend to help manage this situation. In particular the information technology staff within the Department of CGS have and continue to work tirelessly to work and fix this problem and get our system back up and running. Thank you to everyone who has pulled together during this time.

Thank you to everyone for their patience

and understanding. This is certainly not a situation we ever wanted, but we are working through it and we will have many lessons learned moving forward. We will continue to provide regular updates on the government's social media. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 334 – 5(2):
Funding for Inunnguiniq
Initiatives**

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Speaker, Inunnguiniq has been defined as a process that Inuit commit to pursuing with each child over time, with the goal of making capable and contributing human beings. It is process that ensures a person has the values and beliefs to guide him or her in using skills for the common good.

Mr. Speaker, through the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, community members have identified Inunnguiniq as one of the most important steps we can take to reduce poverty for the next generation. Community members have also noted the need to strengthen the capacity of the community organizations to provide Inunnguiniq programming.

To this end, I am pleased to share with you that for fiscal year 2019-2020, the department is supporting four Inunnguiniq projects to date for a total of \$170,000. The projects include:

- The Ilitaqsiniq Nunavut Literacy

Council's Piujuq Project in Rankin Inlet, which will use a holistic approach to teach, support, and guide new mothers using hands-on activities with instruction from elders;

- The Kitikmeot Inuit Association's initiative to deliver Inunnguiniq parenting workshops to men's groups in each community; and
- The Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre's train-the-trainer Inunnguiniq program to both men's groups in the Kitikmeot region and to Family Services staff in the Baffin region.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services is continuing to work with other communities in developing similar projects. While Inunnguiniq initiatives vary across the territory, they share similarities in their goals to support parents and families heal, rebuild the role of extended families and community in childrearing, and instil core *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* values.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers that make these initiatives possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasic.

**Minister's Statement 335 – 5(2):
Expansion of High School Diploma
Exam Opportunities**

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker, as well as

my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education has recently expanded the opportunities for grade 12 students to write or rewrite their diploma exams.

Grade 12 students must complete the English diploma exam to meet the Nunavut graduation requirements and successfully receive their High School Diploma.

Until recently students only had the opportunity to write their diploma exams in January and June of each school year. In April of the 2018-19 school year my department increased the number of exam sittings by giving them an opportunity to rewrite the diploma exam.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this past September the decision to give students a second opportunity to rewrite their diploma exam was made. November will serve as an additional time for grade 12 students to rewrite the exam.

Mr. Speaker, my department is taking the necessary steps to further support student achievement and success. By adding these new opportunities to rewrite the grade 12 diploma exam, my department is not only ensuring students graduate from high school; it is also working to meet the recommendations of the recent Office of the Auditor General's report on supporting high school students and adult learners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister

Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 336 – 5(2):
Breast Cancer Awareness and
Cancer Registry**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I would like to take this opportunity to remind my fellow members that we should all be aware of the signs of breast cancer. Breast cancer is the third most common cancer amongst Nunavummiut women. That being said, it is important to highlight that breast cancer affects everyone. The Department of Health encourages all Nunavummiut to talk with their health care provider about breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker and members, the topic of cancer is a never an easy one to breach, but I am thrilled to share the news that the Nunavut Cancer Registry has met the Gold Standard for the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries. This significant achievement indicates that the most recent holding of cancer data that Nunavut maintains is the same data that drives cancer treatment and care in this territory meets all standards for quality, reliability, completeness, and timeliness of reporting. These data and the larger database into which they feed are integral to countless cancer research studies. We extend our gratitude to the clinicians, laboratories, and health information staff whose diligence and commitment has made this achievement possible.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us all honour all breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families not just in

October but throughout the year by actively raising awareness and educating our fellow Nunavummiut about this very important health issue. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to learn more about the preventative steps that can be taken to minimize the risk of developing cancer and do what they can to spread the word about this and other cancer awareness campaigns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeeagok.

(interpretation) He says he doesn't have a statement. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 515 – 5(2):
Movember Movement**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many of us may know, November is a month which is dedicated to men's health.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that many men die too young and on average six years earlier than women. Most oftentimes this is due to reasons which are preventable. For that reason, the Movember Movement was created a number of years ago. It was meant to encourage men's health as well as creating a charity designed at tackling prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I purposefully held off on making this member's statement today as I learned from my mistakes last year when I made the announcement on November 1, it wasn't quite apparent. This time I gave myself a little bit more time, so my moustache is a bit more visible this year, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

It's not quite there, but it will be there shortly.

With that being said, I advocate for all members to take part in this annual occasion and I will be releasing my charity campaign team shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Member's Statement 516 – 5(2):
Nunavut Development
Corporation**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, ministers, (interpretation) and the people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

First of all, with the computer problems right now, I support the government's ministers and employees in all their efforts. Whenever we go through hardship as Nunavummiut, we find that when we work together, things get done. I support you all.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Nunavut Development Corporation's

work. The fact is that I like it and I support the work. In reading the annual report that just came out, they are doing some very good work quite obviously. I can say I used to be a board member on the NDC, but since I resigned, I think it is now appropriate for me to talk about this.

My constituents of Whale Cove and Arviat are involved in the operations of some businesses. This sealskin vest was made by Kiluk and it was a very nice vest when it was new, but I have been wearing it often and it's getting old. They sew things like that at Kiluk in Arviat. Papiruk Fisheries are involved with fisheries development in Whale Cove.

In reading the report, what I really liked to see is that 140 jobs have been created in one year.

>> *Applause*

The lack of employment prospects is really felt here in Nunavut. The Nunavut Development Corporation is one we need to support and provide funding on top of what they receive. I would really support that, but I don't know if they have been requesting more than they have been allocated. I just wanted to rise in support of the initiatives of the Nunavut Development Corporation, its board members and staff, and perhaps the minister responsible as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakasuk.

**Member's Statement 517 – 5(2):
Supports for Our Elders**

Ms. Nakasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I say “good morning” to the people of Pangnirtung.

I rise this morning on one of the central themes of this sitting that has been focused on the needs and care of our elders whom we represent and we want to support them further. I rise this morning to encourage our government to improve the coordination of supports for elders.

I do recognize that there are a number of different government programs and services made available to our elders. However, I feel some adjustments could be made to improve how those programs are delivered. In particular the Department of Family Services administers the Senior Fuel Subsidy, but the budget is never fully utilized. I feel that this program should be revised so that all elder homeowners receive financial support for their fuel costs. We also try to make considerations on other assistance for our elders.

The Department of Culture and Heritage and other entities rely heavily on our elders to attend meetings and gatherings. However, they hardly ever get anyone to travel with them and help them get around. Some of our elders are quite fragile and it doesn't seem right that they should be asked to travel alone. Some elders are quite feeble, so I think that should be revisited.

Earlier this sitting we heard of elders being asked to sleep in TV lounges in our boarding homes because they don't

have another place to stay.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that our government is working hard to bring our elders home, and we know that we miss our elder relatives in the south. We want them to be brought back home, but there should be more focus on our elders who are still in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Member Nakasuk.

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

As I stated, we see the elders going through hardships and they want to return home and we want them to return home, but in our own communities, our elders need to be taken into more consideration, especially the ones under the care of the government. They can be helped more in our communities, and the government needs to do more about the elders under their care.

I will have questions on this issue during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

Member's Statement 518 – 5(2): Polar Bear Quotas

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as an Inuk and this includes many other Inuit in Nunavut who don't understand the situation with polar bear quotas, we are seeing polar bears wandering into our communities and children who are going trick-or-treating are not allowed on the streets unless there is a guard to escort them.

Many people are asking why the polar bear quota is not being increased more dramatically. I cannot keep up with the number of polar bears, as Inuit believe the polar bear population has increased and I believe that the population estimates on computers are too old now. We don't know the actual number of polar bears. As Inuit we don't understand why our polar bear quotas can't be increased. You have seen yourselves as MLAs that polar bears have mauled people in the Kivalliq region and some people are in great danger.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clearly understand where the polar bear quotas come from. Is it because of the global pressure? Inuit have stated that polar bears have increased in numbers, so why doesn't the total allowable harvest level catch up? I will have questions on this issue at a later date regarding polar bear management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 519 – 5(2): 2019 High School Graduates of Resolute Bay

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday in Resolute Bay they had a great time at Qarmartalik School as they held a graduation ceremony for the three graduates who were feted proudly by their parents, family members, and residents who attended the graduation.

I apologize for not being able to travel up for the graduation ceremony. Although I was planning to go, I couldn't make it, so I sincerely apologize to you. We are very happy to see their success. I will celebrate with you at a later date, but I want to name the three grade 12 graduates:

- Sophie Idlout
- Devon Manik
- Justin MacDonald

There was a celebration for the graduation in Resolute Bay. I am very proud that you completed high school and I encourage you to pursue further education to the best of your ability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 520 – 5(2): The Issue of Suicide

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Amittuq and my colleagues here.

First of all, I would like to apologize to my constituents for not being able to attend the sitting. I rise today for this purpose, as I had to return home to go to my relatives because they were going through a hard time. I thank you for being able to explain that I was not able to attend the sitting with reason, so I again apologize for my absence.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as I have always stated that I would advocate on behalf of elders and youth, but it really pains me when a youth commits suicide anywhere. Even if you aren't related, there is a feeling of loss.

Although I am hurting deeply as I say these words, it feels that I am just spinning my wheels verbally. That is very unfortunate, as I am very passionately providing advice to the youth, "You can all receive help. You can be helped by people outside."

>> *Applause*

Although I, too, state my availability and our beloved elders are able to provide advice, they lived a hard life trying to survive. They didn't have a house to stay warm in like we do now. In this day and age, young people have the capacity to explore the world online and we can even call a helpline. I am very strongly encouraging the entire crop of youth throughout Nunavut that you can still get help and your future is very large. There are initiatives created within this Legislative Assembly.

However, this part may be exceedingly difficult: "Who to turn to? I wonder to whom I can ask for help." Let's stop just asking questions of each other and visit the people who are welcoming to us.

Although I personally advocate passionately, I feel that I am just stuck in limbo, although I am trying my hardest for you and our elders.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Kaernerck, please proceed with your statement.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for allowing me to conclude my statement.

Life is absolutely not a game. We only live once as humans in this world. Even if you wanted to live longer at the point of death, it cannot bring you back. We all have a soul; everyone has a heart and mind. Please, young people, I am really trying to advise you properly as suicide should not be an option at all. Even as I speak, there are young people in trouble wondering who to turn to and they get stuck there.

Mr. Speaker, our elders are out there to help and I shall name several elders in my riding. Abraham Oolalak from Hall Beach can help you. Peter Awa from Igloolik can also help you. I am only saying a couple of names so you may know who is available and they can help you. Oolalak always tries to help out people who are undergoing difficult times and when he gets a phone call at night, he always answers.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this to the Premier on how the government can help improve lives. I

will have questions on this to the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I don't have any more names on my list. Continuing on. Returns to Oral Questions. Continuing on to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member Joanasie.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome these individuals to the House. I'll start with my dear wife, Emily Joanasie. Just this past summer we celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary. I would like to welcome her.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, we got further great news when we adopted from my dear wife's cousin and we named our new daughter Pattu Joanasie. I would like to welcome her and my older sister, Mary Joanasie. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 698 – 5(2): Status of New Contracts for Medical and Duty Travel on Scheduled Airlines

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good morning" to the residents of Gjoa Haven. To my colleague Mr. Kaerner, I empathize with you as you want to assist our youth.

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

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions during our recent spring sitting about the status of the government's new contracts for medical and duty travel. Information that was subsequently published by the government indicates that it has awarded contracts to two airlines: Calm Air and the new merged airline, Canadian North.

Mr. Speaker, the new schedule for the newly merged airline Canadian North came into effect on the first of this month.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when the government's new contract for medical and duty travel formally come into effect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contract that was completed will become effective by December 1, 2019 in the Kivalliq and January 1, 2020 for the rest of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the government awarded a contract valued at close to \$700,000 to Lufthansa Consulting to develop an airline procurement strategy. Mr. Speaker, can the minister highlight the most significant differences between its new contracts for medical and duty travel and the contracts that it previously had with the airlines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This contract that is being awarded right now, the most significant change was in the beginning we did put a call if there were any interests by the airlines. That was one of the most significant...it was to try to attract as many airlines in the industry as much as possible before we secured this contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information published by the government indicates that the new contract will be for an initial term of three years, with two renewal options. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm which department of the government has primary responsibility for monitoring the airlines' performance under the new contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The primary department that will be monitoring is the Department of Community and Government Services under their procurement division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 699 – 5(2): Supports for Elders

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my member's statement, my question this morning is for the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Now, as per my statement this morning, I believe the government needs to put more focus on the various services provided by departments. First of all, I would like to ask the minister how he works with his colleagues to review the different services which focus on seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. I think it's an important evolution of this file that I've had the opportunity and privilege, with the Premier's guidance, to take over the seniors file. There's a lot of work that's yet to be done on collaborating everything and bringing it all under the one umbrella, but I will say that there has been work done in the past that we want to build upon, such as the seniors' handbook that was developed through Executive Intergovernmental Affairs previously. It outlined what

programs and contact information to access different programs from different partners, including the Government of Nunavut obviously, to go forward.

That being said, we are not at a full reset button, but having this ability for myself to be able to coordinate with my colleagues and develop a truly focused seniors division or enhancing existing services is only going to make improvements to the system with this added focus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for indicating that he collaborates with his colleagues. I also recognize that with the government holding different portfolios, they have to work closer together. That's obvious, but I would also like to ask about the Nunavut Seniors Society. How does he work with the Nunavut Seniors Society as the Minister responsible for Seniors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. The timing is a little awkward, as there has been a change in the leadership and some turnover in the seniors' society. I haven't had the opportunity to directly correspond with them as of yet. This is a fairly new development, but I can assure the member that we do want to have input from anybody and everybody, especially groups that are tasked with specific advocacy issues, such as seniors. I do look forward to

communicating with that group, but that being said, I haven't as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for pointing out that there needs to be more work done.

As I said earlier, there are different programs and services held by the government for assisting our elders that can be provided by the government, and the Nunavut Seniors Society has different responsibilities and there are slight differences. However, for my final question I am asking the Minister responsible for Seniors: in looking at these services, will they join forces to improve the implementation of these services so that they are readily available for the elders? Here I mean the services held by government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to maybe clarify or restate. This change in responsibility isn't because there wasn't enough being done on it. The majority of programs for seniors do fall under the Department of Health. I felt it was easier and the Premier, thankfully, agreed with me, it was easier for me to take on this responsibility to help coordinate resources.

The member brings up the Senior Fuel Subsidy. We just made changes to that very recently. We're always looking at

program improvements to make it more uniform and more equitable. We're going to continue to look at all the programming availability for seniors and look at where enhancements are available and look at more direct focus. I welcome the challenge and I welcome the task, and I look forward to continued results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

Question 700 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Rankin Inlet South. I'm sorry...

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) ...beautiful Baker Lake.

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

(interpretation ends) As the minister will be aware, two resolutions were passed at the recent annual meeting of Kivalliq mayors concerning the issue of marine infrastructure for the community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Transportation Initiatives Program, municipalities can apply for funding for small craft harbour capital contributions. The maximum amount of funding that can be provided is \$300,000.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that his department contacts the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet to assist them with applying for funding under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize to you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I am aware of the motions and we will be working closely with the communities. As I stated before, under the Oceans Protection Plan, we asked for federal funding to do a comprehensive community scoping study for each of the communities. I am happy to announce that the request for proposals is out right now to seek expertise which will allow marine infrastructure experts to visit each of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. I have been pressuring him, actually, to make Chesterfield Inlet a priority and I want it on the record before a life is lost. It's with regard to life security, as he well knows.

One of the resolutions passed at the recent meeting of Keewatin mayors expressed support for the construction of a deep sea port at Chesterfield Inlet. Can the minister indicate if a project of this scale would be eligible for federal funding consideration under the National Trade Corridors Fund? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the reason why we're doing a scoping study is that there are different pots of money available under the federal programs, such as the Oceans Protection Plan. There's at least over \$94 million that is still remaining under the Oceans Protection Plan, but in order for us to submit any proposals, we need to provide some substantial and up-to-date information.

It is through our department that we are going through this scoping study, which will allow us to enhance our studies that have been outstanding across Nunavut. I want to say that there were a number of communities that we suggested to get information earlier, and Chesterfield Inlet is one of those communities. I want to work with the member and the community and all of our communities in terms of where we can see more marine infrastructure in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. About two years ago a child rolled under the boats that were coming in and it was just fortunate the hunters were able to pull the child out from under the boat. I questioned the SAO of the community and he said, "Which one?" That was just not one incident; there have been a number of other incidents where life was at stake, so I thank the minister for that response.

My next question is, the department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy expires on March 31, 2020, the coming year. This is just four months now. Can the minister describe what specific changes to the program are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you as well. That \$500,000 was approved here in the House. I thank my colleagues for approving the funding and during the committee review of the 2020-21 budget, it was also supported by our colleagues, so I am extremely grateful. The communities can submit applications towards this fund by presenting a proposal, which is why we review the budgets to determine which projects will be funded. We would like to see it continue here. I am thankful that this House supports my work, and I thank each and every one of my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Question 701 – 5(2): Staffing in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow residents of Netsilik, along with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the fall sitting, one of my colleagues asked

about the number of vacant teaching positions in Nunavut schools. Two weeks ago the minister indicated that there were 38.5 vacant Nunavut Teacher Association positions.

Can the minister provide an update on what success his department has had in filling these positions and how many are still vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Netsilik for his question. Mr. Speaker, on October 11 I informed my fellow members and Nunavummiut that there were 38.5 vacant teaching positions. I will have to look into this as to what progress has been made, but in breaking it down regionally, the 38.5 as of October 11 currently stands with the Qikiqtani region having 26.5 vacant positions, the Kitikmeot with 9, and the Kivalliq with 3. However, I want it noted that we have tried to continue to fill the positions, so I know the numbers have changed. I just have to check with my officials on the exact status today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased with the minister's adequate response. The first thing I want to comment on is that just prior to his visitor leaving, I forgot to mention it, but in recollecting it, I forgot I had not asked about it and I anticipate the minister will provide adequate responses to my queries, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the department has faced difficulties in hiring teachers within Nunavut. Can the minister clarify his department's plans, including any new strategies that are being considered, to hire more teachers for Nunavut so that we do not face a shortage again next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, currently our department is developing a 10-year recruitment and retention strategy for teachers in the future. This will be outlined in the near future and allows a long-term vision.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we are also carrying out other planning processes, such as the plans for hiring NTEP graduates. I had written letters to the students last year and I will continue to encourage the students to look at employment opportunities in our schools. We also provide other career development opportunities. That's just an example, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to that issue. Mr. Speaker, the Teacher Education Program is delivered by Arctic College. However, it is the Department of Education which needs new teachers to be trained and certified.

Can the minister tell us how he will be

working with his colleagues at Arctic College to recruit more Nunavummiut into the Teacher Education Program and train more individuals to be able to teach in Nunavut so that our students do not have to wait for teachers to be recruited every time we are short of teaching staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Netsilik. Mr. Speaker, this is one of the new plans that are providing direction as we work in partnership with Arctic College and our federal counterparts, who have informed us that they will provide funding of \$42 million over a five-year period.

We are trying to develop plans for teachers who will be language specialists. As more progress is made on that, we want to provide a status report. However, on top of that, I have directed my officials to try to recruit past graduates of NTEP, whether they're not employed anymore within the school system or are retired in Nunavut. It's not just outside Nunavut that we are looking to recruit.

Mr. Speaker, those are just some of the initiatives we are doing in education. Thank you.

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

Question 702 – 5(2): Water Security

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. I say “good morning” to everyone.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and it's not going to be on the government network situation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of water security by first acknowledging the support that the Government of Nunavut provided this summer in relation to the city's emergency application to the Nunavut Water Board.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my questions last week to the Premier, almost a quarter of Nunavut's population lives in the capital city and it is essential that we achieve a solution to our water security challenges.

The Government of Nunavut's long-term infrastructure plan, which has been submitted to the federal government, indicates that “...the focus for Green funding will be on supporting the GN's Drinking Water Strategy.”

Can the minister provide an update today on where the government is at in developing, finalizing, and tabling its drinking water strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is pretty simple for all four questions: we're still working on finalizing the water strategy. It's one that's very serious and a concern to every community in Nunavut, and it's one that we don't take lightly. As soon as it is available to table, I look forward to sharing it with my colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That seems to be a very familiar reply is that everything is still being worked on. Nunavut's long-term infrastructure plan was written in 2018, so we're getting into the second year.

Recent correspondence from the minister indicates that his department has identified three priority source water projects in Iqaluit, Grise Fiord, and Sanikiluaq. The purpose of these projects is to "ensure communities have a reliable long-term source for drinking water." Can the minister provide a ballpark estimate for how much federal funding will be required to successfully address the needs of these three communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail in terms of how much money is going to be needed from the federal government for this. I just don't have that detail of information and once it's available, I would be more than happy to share it with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again that's a very familiar response.

The City of Iqaluit recently issued a

request for proposals for a long-term water storage pre-feasibility study. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate the extent to which his department is providing technical assistance to the city as it works to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It takes more than a week or so to put out plans for water shortages. I understand my colleague getting frustrated over not being able to get an answer, but I don't have that answer either. We're still working on those plans and to ensure that they work. Twelve months is actually a very short time to do water feasibility studies across Nunavut, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of working with the city, our department has been working very hard with the city. The city has their own funding sources and the city has their own planning and works division. Our department is always open and always willing to work with the city to ensure that the city's water woes come to an end. Whenever the city had asked for support, we were quick and there to help them out. In fact I issued a state of emergency for the city so that work to start pumping water at Lake Geraldine was in effect.

We have a very good working relationship with the city and we continue to work with the city to ensure that they have available water and the best water that they can. If there is any opportunity for us to work together, I assure my colleague that the city workers and staff are constantly working with ours, Mr. Speaker. We have a good

working relationship and I assume that that will continue going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Question 703 – 5(2): Issuing of Cheques to Individuals/Suppliers

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my questions to the Minister of Finance regarding the hacking that took place of the government's IT network.

The present situation is of a concern to me as a Member of Legislative Assembly and my constituents who work for the government, and for those people who receive financial assistance from the government. That's why I'm asking about it.

My first question to the minister is: looking at the different cheques that are processed by the government, how are you going to be issuing cheques to the people who need them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance and Chair of the Financial Management Board, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is a very fluid situation, we have taken some steps of communicating with our banking partners, getting planned fees to actually manually write out cheques if we need to. We are working with all partner departments to help prioritization, but we do expect some delays. This is a very serious issue, but we will be working

with departments on prioritization to make sure that people who need the money now get it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I do appreciate all the hard work that is being done within the government to deal with this very serious issue. With regard to government employees or other individuals who receive payments from the government by direct deposit, can they also anticipate possible impacts or would this be different between direct deposit and people who receive cheques? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the direct deposit system was also impacted by the computer. All our computers are shut down right now. We do have some limited opportunities for money transfers if necessary, but as most of our system is done by computer, all of our computers are shut down until the issue can be resolved. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. If Nunavummiut don't get their cheques or monies they were expecting, where can they call to contact the government? Is there one number that they can call or do they call different departments?

(interpretation ends) Just to clarify my

question, is there a central agency that is fielding enquiries with regard to any possible delays or is it simply on a department-by-department basis? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this. People are out there that are worried about their payroll or reimbursement for expenses that were paid are obviously one of our top priorities.

We want to make sure, especially our civil servants and our medical travellers, and people who are getting reimbursed for expenses that they have spent on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, they get reimbursed and compensated for those payments. Mr. Speaker, if I've got to sign cheques manually, I am willing to do that.

Mr. Speaker, there's no central contact. If you have a medical travel issue, you would contact medical travel. If you've got a payroll issue, you would contact the payroll division through your supervisor. The contacts remain the same, but if there are any specific issues that people have, I encourage you to contact my office and I'll direct you to the appropriate contact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 704 – 5(2): Issuing of Income Support Payments

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Department of Family Services and they're again regarding the network outage that the government is facing.

Mr. Speaker, a large number of my constituents rely on income support, and delaying even by a day could mean families going hungry. Can the minister update us today on what safeguards or backup plans the department has in place to ensure that services for the most vulnerable are not interrupted in times when the computer system fails? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister Acting for Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For all those who are receiving income support, we encourage every one of them to, if they are due for their income support, contact income assistance workers. As part of our emergency plans, this has been addressed in what our income support assistance workers will do are what we call manual food vouchers as part of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's early in the new month and everybody knows that when a new month starts, that's when income support clients start going for their assistance. Today is November 4, I think, so I'm sure there's a line-up starting to happen at our income support offices.

I'm just wondering if the minister can update us today on whether clients will be turned away and asked to come back at a later date or will clients be issued a handwritten cheque or a voucher that they can use immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend the staff that are working over the weekend and have been in discussions with the local or the major retailers in terms of what the situation is at right now.

As part of our emergency plans, each of our income assistance workers has food vouchers. Part of our emergency plans is basically anybody who needs income assistance today or this week, if they are scheduled to go to their income assistance workers, they will go there today. This morning might have been slightly different because each of our regional directors had to have a teleconference with each of our workers and explain how the process will work.

For the clients, it may be an inconvenience because what is going to happen is that for today and possibly for this week, we will issue the food vouchers. At the same time we will ask our clients to come back at a later time when our system is up and running, and then go and look through their verifications and all the requirements that do normally take place. That will be an inconvenience for everybody, but our main focus is that we issue food vouchers for those that need it. We're committed to doing that for today and this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak

Question 705 – 5(2): The Revitalization of Inuinnaqtun

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, in his minister's statement on the evolution of language in Nunavut, the minister noted that the use of Inuktut is a concern in all Kitikmeot communities.

Mr. Speaker, there are different dialects in the Kitikmeot region and it seems quite clear that the use of Inuinnaqtun is declining rapidly in the communities of Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay.

Can the minister provide an update on what specific actions are being taken by the government to strengthen and revitalize the use of Inuinnaqtun?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Hon. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, one of the ways we are trying to revitalize language use across the territory is the new partnership in relation with Nunavut Arctic College and the federal government. This is a language specialist pilot project.

In addition to that, we have our grants and contributions that specifically target communities where revitalization is needed, including the Kitikmeot region. We do fund different projects in the Kitikmeot region for that purpose and we will continue that moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. According to the *Evolution of Language in Nunavut* report, 545 people reported Inuinnaqtun as their mother tongue, which is only 1.5 percent of the population of Nunavut and just 15 percent of the combined populations of the communities of Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. Younger residents such as me have a passive knowledge of Inuinnaqtun, but we struggle with speaking it. Language courses would be of great benefit.

Given the disturbingly low numbers of Inuinnaqtun speakers, will the minister commit to [making] language revitalization efforts for Inuinnaqtun a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. We do prioritize language revitalization as one area that we need to focus on with regard to language. Yes, we do have a rich variety of dialects across Nunavut. Even within regions, there are many different dialects that can enrich our language. I think this is where

we are trying to promote language use in all areas of society.

One popular way that we have been successful year after year is the Qilaut songwriting competition that the department holds and we do get entries from all regions, which is great to see. This is something through song and dance that I think this is where it was one of the solutions that we want to have presented in the communities to revive the language where it's low-end use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. According to the government's 2019-2020 business plan, Nunavut Arctic College has partnered with the University of Victoria for the purposes of language revitalization with a focus on Inuinnaqtun. I believe that initiatives such as this project would be very beneficial to the community of Kugluktuk. Will the minister commit to working with his colleagues at Nunavut Arctic College to ensure that this project can also be offered in Kugluktuk as well as Cambridge Bay? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. We want to see more and more people take up these opportunities wherever they're available. I want to commit to work with the minister responsible for the college to have these different courses or programs available to as many communities that it can be offered.

The one thing that we want to emphasize on revitalization is practising, and it's one thing to say we want to learn the language, but in terms of acting on it, it's another thing. We want the community to come forward with a proposal or we want to see the list of people who are planning to partake in such initiatives. Once we have the information substantiated, we can move forward on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Question 706 – 5(2): Subsidized Housing and Homeownership

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and are regarding subsidized housing and homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked numerous questions on this topic over the last two years to Ministers of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister of Finance, and Minister of Human Resources to no avail.

Mr. Speaker, I have been asking these questions since day one. I have asked questions in the first sitting to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation about the inequity of staff housing and homeownership; in the second sitting, questions of the Minister of Finance over the household allowance; in the third sitting to the Minister of the NHC about the homeownership review; and in the fourth sitting, questions to the Minister of the NHC about tenant-to-ownership programs and once again about the

homeownership review.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the question to the Premier today because I have asked so many questions to so many different ministers, but I want to finally get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, public housing and staff housing tenants have no incentive to transition into homeowners because there is no incentive. Mr. Speaker, our homeowners are struggling. It's difficult being a homeowner and right now with what the government is offering, there is very little that homeowners can get help and assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out that the GN's reluctance to make any changes to date is having an impact on the territory. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is: over the last two years, why have there not been any changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member alluded to asking questions for the housing minister and the Minister of Finance and not getting any answers, I think he did receive responses saying that they are reviewing it. I can't add much to that, as it's being reviewed. We know there are inequities between subsidized public housing and subsidized staff housing to homeowners. We know that, but it's being reviewed and looked at. We want to make sure any decision made by this government is fair, is reasonable and makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. With the status quo, the current system in place is very unfair and I believe something needs to be done. I know that every time I ask questions on the topic, almost always the minister's response was that there was a review. There's going to be potentially something, but we don't know what and we don't know when.

Mr. Speaker, I have been asking these questions for two years. Two years, same response, "review, it's close to being done, it's going to cabinet for decision," yet we're still here without having any information.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask why exactly the review is taking so long. Can the Premier explain the whole process about the review and the cabinet decision process and why it is taking so long? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a complex issue, as the member should know. He hears that there are inequities, he stated, and we hear that there are inequities between someone in public housing and someone in homeownership. We also hear from other members that public housing rents are too high. There's got to be some middle ground there. That's why we've got to make sure it's fair and reasonable because we hear that public housing

rents are too high from one member and then we hear from another member that the homeowners are paying way more than people in public housing.

The rent scale is there and is quite varied. We want to promote homeownership. You have heard that from the housing minister. He's a big advocate of homeownership because we know that once a person is in their own home, then the government subsidizes that a whole less. We would like to subsidize it some more, but we want to make sure that we come up with a program that is good and fair to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for providing what I consider to be irrelevant information and didn't really respond to my question about the review process and the cabinet decisions.

Mr. Speaker, my next question relates to an issue that happened or occurred in this Assembly one year ago. Last fall sitting, I asked a question to the then Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation about the topic and the minister at the time stood and read from what I believed to be a cabinet document. In that cabinet document it stated that they want to generally increase the household allowance for homeowners and private market rentals. "We want to explore the potential to expand an income-based down payment assistance program" and "We want to develop a down payment savings matching program," and so on.

Mr. Speaker, that record of decision was in the cabinet's hands this time last year. I would like to ask again: as those decisions were in the cabinet's hands last year, 12 months ago, why has nothing come to fruition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member should be aware that we are in negotiations with the NEU right now, and we can't have any financial implications that would affect union negotiations. That is part of the issue here where, when you are in negotiations, you can't change the rules during the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 707 – 5(2): Addressing Issues with Elders and Youth

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to our Premier. I know that there is a Minister responsible for Seniors, but I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Now, I have asked questions to the Department of Family Services and the Department of Justice on how else the elders can be assisted by the Nunavut government.

The first question I have is: as the Premier of Nunavut, how can you strengthen the use of our language and culture, for example, through partnership? How can the government

work together on behalf of elders and youth? I'm probably not making much sense with my question, but I am very passionate about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share the member's feelings on what he said earlier. Also, as the ministers here, we have all gone through that. I empathize with what you talked about this morning.

All the communities have elders' committees and they can talk with young people. As a government we have an elders' advisory committee for all of Nunavut that is based here in Iqaluit. We meet with them, but it has been a while since our last meeting with them, if I understood your question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a partial response. If I am mistaken, let me know.

When I worked for the Department of Justice, there was an elder advisor from the government. Maybe if I ask my question this way, it will be clearer. Can the government hire an elder advisor for all of Nunavut who can advise young people or even regular citizens? Can you work harder as a government on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the departments have a position specific to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. The jobs themselves are not geared specifically for elders, but we do know that the elders on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit know more about this than the younger people. I don't think that the IQ coordinators are all elders.

Additionally, the Department of Culture and Heritage has an IQ committee that I believe are all elders and they provide advice. I would like to see them used more often. Although this committee is specific to the Department of Culture and Heritage, perhaps we can broaden their involvement with government operations. We have thought of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of the elders' advisory committee, but I'm asking specifically about advice towards our communities. I know there are advisory committees, but some elders do get some compensation by receiving an honorarium. What I am trying to ask is this: is it at all possible for the government to hire them into these positions? What we drafted in the *Turaaqtavut* mandate is that we want to perform effectively and to represent our constituents.

Can we not use that to strengthen the *Turaaqtavut* mandate specifically towards our elders and youth here in Nunavut, especially since they are the ones who go through stressful periods, and to have that in partnership with

government? Can you strengthen the mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is something we can look into, but pretty well every school across Nunavut has elders who are employed and although this is specific to education, I think all schools now have local elders working.

I am from Arviat and I constantly hear our elders advising the younger generations over the local radio how to ensure you live a better life. The elders are interested in doing the work locally and we know that many elders would like to help young people. When elders advise the youth, the youth can learn those lessons if they listen.

I hope I responded to your question, but if I understood correctly, you would like to see an elder working for the government who provides local life skills advice. Hopefully I understood. Yes? We will look into that, but currently there are no specific positions separately, although there are *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* coordinators in each department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on. Written Questions. Continuing on. Returns to Written Questions. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. (interpretation) Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck. He says he doesn't have a petition. I apologize. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Item 11.

Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 055 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Member for Quttiktuq, that pursuant to Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 18, 2020.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 8, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 with Ms. Angnakak in the Chair.

With the authority provided to me by Motion 50 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee

of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 11:40 and Committee resumed at 13:30

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Okay, I'm just trying to see if my little red light is on or not.

Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 8, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the 2020-21 capital appropriations, commencing with the Department of Family Services, followed by the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Department of Health. If time permits, we will then proceed to the review of Bills 31, 32, and 33. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Main. We have a lot of work ahead of us. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 30?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Family Services –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairperson: I would like now to ask the Acting Minister, Minister Akeeagok: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Sorry, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Akeeagok, please introduce your officials. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my right is Yvonne Niego, Deputy Minister, and to my left is Sol Vardy, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. (interpretation ends) You can proceed with your opening comments. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson and members of the Committee of the Whole.

I am pleased to be here today to present the 2020-21 Department of Family

Services' capital estimates.

The Department of Family Services is requesting a total of \$700,000 in capital funding for fiscal year 2020-21. This will address renovation plans, office space/tenant improvement, and replacement plan for vehicles, furniture, and equipment across the territory. Addressing these needs will improve service delivery, employee productivity, and better functionality of existing space.

(interpretation ends) The department is focused on optimizing our budgetary and human capacity resources in order to ensure that the needs of our clientele are met. We take our role as the voice of the vulnerable very seriously.

Madam Chairperson, the department is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality service to Nunavummiut. This includes the provision of income support assistance, assisting clients to enter and remain in the labour market, and supporting children, youth, and families.

This capital request is critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of program service delivery in the communities across Nunavut. I look forward to your ongoing support as we work to better service the communities across the territory.

(interpretation) Madam Chairperson, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I welcome any questions or comments that members may have as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeeagok.

(interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) 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 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services.

Ms. Chairperson, the Department of Family Services' proposed capital budget for 2020-21 includes one item, a small capital budget of \$700,000 for projects, including repairs, renovations, and replacement of equipment as well as vehicles. Members appreciated receiving updated details on proposed expenditures in upcoming fiscal years.

Ms. Chairperson, the standing committee recognizes that the department continues to face a number of challenges in accessing office space for staff as well as meeting the demands for office renovations and the [upgrading] of equipment in those communities which are not regional centres. Members encourage the minister to continue to explore options for ensuring that staff have safe and comfortable environments to work in, in all communities. It is not clear how the department prioritizes its expenditures in these areas.

Ms. Chairperson, the Department of Family Services is responsible for a number of electronic data management systems in such areas as child and family services, income assistance, and career development. Following the cabinet

retreat in Arviat early this fall, it was announced that the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program will be transferred to the Department of Education. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates on what steps are being taken to update and integrate those electronic systems that her department continues to manage.

Ms. Chairperson, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Ms. Nakashuk. (interpretation ends) Does anybody have any general comments? General comments to the opening comments? No, seeing none, we will go to D-3. Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$700,000. Agreed? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for appearing before us today and I appreciate that you're taking your role quite seriously as the voice for the vulnerable. I really appreciate that.

I know that your department does all that it can with the limited resources provided. I just wanted to voice my concern as last year I was disappointed that the minister hadn't included anything in the five-year capital plan to address the territory's infrastructure needs for group homes, shelters, and

transition homes.

I do appreciate that the department and minister had made a contribution to the Uquutaq Society's purchase of the properties that it is currently going to be utilizing as a transition home, but I guess my first question is: why has the minister not included any funding specific for new group homes, shelters, and transition homes? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For group homes and shelters, the focus has been to work with societies and/or community members to find shelters and to find buildings to house shelters, which is why there is nothing in the capital plans, but those are addressed through the operations and maintenance budgets. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Next person on my list is Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Information provided with the department's draft capital estimates indicated that a number of facilities under the department's jurisdictions require renovations and upgrades. How are these needs prioritized from year to year? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I could, through you, ask the Assistant Deputy Minister,

Ms. Vardy, to respond to that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Vardy.

Ms. Vardy: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We are prioritizing our facilities. Our first job should be based on needs and what is high risk and can also be on safety and security. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Vardy. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I wonder if the department can give us an update today on what are the needs across Nunavut for income support workers. For example, what kinds of office space are required or where is it lacking across the territory? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. (interpretation) Please hold on.

(interpretation ends) Madam Chairperson, through you, if I could ask the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ms. Vardy, to respond to that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Vardy.

Ms. Vardy: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Our office space situation in communities, especially for our income assistance workers and career development, there is still a need for them to look for a better environment.

We have different situations now in communities. We still share office space with Health. We have staff who are staying in health centres. We're also sharing office space with wildlife offices and we're still in the process of trying to find appropriate places for our staff.

Over the last four years we have been working with the Department of CGS with commercial leasing. If there is no office space available from the government, we have to lease from the outside market and we have a number of leased properties just to accommodate our income assistance workers, career development and social services workers. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Vardy. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. You mention that some of your office spaces are in shared accommodations with the department of wildlife and that is the case for my community. When it was built in my community 20 plus years ago, it was built for one income support worker and for the past four or five years, we've had two income support workers.

I have been bringing this issue up with your department and with CGS for many years now on the fact that one of your workers in my community is working out of a closet and the working conditions aren't the greatest and there are no windows in it. There is no access other than the one doorway to get there.

Like I said, I have been bringing this up for years and I still don't see anything anywhere in the capital estimates

requiring office space for my community. Can we get an update today on what you're doing about the office situation in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Chairperson. For the case of Sanikiluaq, I believe there were more attempts to have requests for proposals that were unsuccessful. Right now the department's plan and anticipation is that once the old health centre is available, it is our anticipation and our hope that parts of it will be transferred for the Department of Family Services. That's the current plan right now. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. The next person on the list is Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Minister and staff, welcome.

Information provided with the department's draft capital estimates indicates that approximately \$340,000 will be spent on furniture in 2020-21. Can you describe what kinds of furniture will be purchased with these funds and where they will go? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Out of the \$700,000, \$170,000 is geared towards the furniture and the furniture varies in

terms of communities. So far we've got one for the Iqaluit Grinnell Place, Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Naujaat, Whale Cove, Cambridge Bay, and Kugaaruk. The furniture is geared towards the offices and so I would assume it's to replace the desks or replace the chairs. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have been asking about furniture for Gjoa Haven, even at the last Assembly. I have never seen anything going into Gjoa Haven, so I'm just wondering if there are any plans for anything like that for Gjoa Haven offices because they have used equipment, used furniture, and they would like to have new equipment or furniture sometime soon. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. During the briefings our staff mentioned that Gjoa Haven has been asking for it for the last two years and, if I understood, last year there was a complication with sealift and this year we're trying to verify if in the sealift in fact they received furniture or not. We have not verified that yet, but it's something that our department is quite aware of and that we can follow up. As of last week's briefing, we couldn't verify what arrived in the sealift in order for us to see if your questioning has been fulfilled yet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. (interpretation ends) Maybe Mr. Akoak will know. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Has the department identified any need to build new facilities during the periods covered by the five-year capital plan? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is that for the whole territory or for the community of Gjoa Haven specifically? Could I get clarification if he's asking for all the office space across the territory? If that is the case, then we work closely with Community and Government Services to try to identify whether we can lease or own or take existing stocks like the old health centre in Sanikiluaq and repurposing that through the Department of Family Services. If I can get a little bit of clarity on that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's partly a question for Gjoa Haven because the Municipality of Gjoa Haven has renovated a building to make that into a women's shelter, which is supposed to be happening in 2020-21. I don't see anything in the plans in that area. They do have a building. They fixed it up and got it all ready, and they just needed your help to get it going. That's part of my question to see if that's going to happen in 2020-21. Is that in

the plans? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In one of the questionings in the beginning, it was asked about whether we fund shelters or not through the capital. I did state that the department does it through operations and maintenance. As far as I understand with Gjoa Haven's shelter, that is still an ongoing discussion between the department and the municipality and whoever is involved. It would not be in this part of the capital, but I want to assure the member that those discussions are still taking place and, if any funding is needed, the department funds those through the operations and maintenance budgets. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's just a comment. In your opening statement you say, "We take our role as the voice of the vulnerable very seriously." You state that. We need a women's shelter in Gjoa Haven. Take that into consideration. You take your voice of the vulnerable very seriously. It's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I'll just pick up where my colleague left off. I mean, if this department is the voice of the

vulnerable, then... I mean money talks, right? This department is the voice of the vulnerable and this is consistently one of the departments with the smallest budget allocated to it.

I'm just wondering in terms of business cases that were brought forward for consideration. Were there any other projects or business cases that were brought forward during the budgeting process under Family Services that didn't make the cut? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok, can you try to respond to that question?

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When we're putting budgets in, it goes through a very rigorous screening. It becomes muted when you say, "Oh, we tried to put this in, but we didn't get it in." Every department, I think, can say those things, but when the government presents its budget, it presents its budget the way it is and for the purpose of capital, this is what the Department of Family Services has brought forward. I just want to respond that I know we did not put any other asks when it comes to capital. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, acting minister. It is important for us to understand, like my colleague was mentioning, what we can expect in coming years under Family Services. \$700,000, is that the extent of the capital need in terms violence

shelters, in terms of supported living facilities, in terms of children's group homes? Is that seriously what the vision is for this department?

I think we all know from our individual constituencies that there is a huge outstanding need and it would be very encouraging to see plans in place for more money and more facilities to support the most vulnerable members of our society. I guess I'll ask that question again in terms of the capital needs of the department and being the voice of the vulnerable. Are there any other projects that are currently in the pipeline that are under planning for this department? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. That's a very good question. Minister Akeegok, please try to respond.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will try to answer the question adequately, as it is indeed a very good question.

Yes, we really have to try to resolve these challenges and there are already deliberations ongoing on these challenges. With regard to Family Services, when dealing with community-related issues, we try to work it through the (interpretation ends) operations and maintenance (interpretation) budget, as that is how they provide assistance. We are looking for societies. We are looking for potential partners with facilities so that we can provide operational grants or contributions, where larger amounts can be provided.

With respect to trying to attain a facility

towards that, it will have to go through the government's capital planning process where capital items are approved. At this time most of the funding for shelters, homeless shelters, and other facilities are generally funded, although it isn't any easier to get funds, but they usually are provided funding by the Department of Family Services through their operations and maintenance budget. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. This is indeed the basis for my concern, as in the interim the government owns these assets and these units are hamlet assets. There are some units seemingly right between these two sets of assets, where you have shelters for whomever needs assistance.

(interpretation ends) I am concerned that these facilities are falling between the cracks, especially in communities which are economically disadvantaged and have a very hard time starting up societies to take on these roles, for example, daycares. It's very difficult for a lot of communities just to have a functioning board to run a daycare and so the government is saying, "Well, if you want a group home or if you want a different kind of facility, you have to start up a society, you have to find a building..."

Would the department or the government be willing to revisit their methodology for future years and look at... ? If there is a need and if nobody is coming forward and if the hamlet is

maybe not able to step in and provide a facility, it stands to reason that the government should step in to protect the children, to protect the women and whoever might need these types of facilities. (interpretation) I wanted to ask if this should be an item for resolution or not, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Main. There are always the Inuit development corporations as well. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Yes, I thank you. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, it is an ongoing thing that the Department of Family Services continues to look and see how to improve and where there are areas that the government needs to step in. Those are the very things that they have been able to do in some cases, but right now the way it operates is going through those societies. In going through those, as one of the members mentioned, the old health centre, they are suggesting to turn that into a women's shelter. Those would be like our contributions.

For those that are trying to work and trying to set up societies, our department helps out in terms of very hands on in terms of how and where to try to secure funding. There is other funding that's available through other forums. When you create a government-only facility when those "fundings" don't become available, the minister's statement as acting minister on the transitional housing, I think that was one of the good news and something I really commend the Department of Family Services to be involved. It involved a lot of different organizations, including Inuit associations, including the CMHC, or the Canadian Mortgage... .

When you want to create something in that, the society is the best forum to do it because they can access further funding, whereas when it becomes a government or state-owned building, then we have to go through our own budgets and sometimes we restrict ourselves because there are pots of money that are available either from the foundations or other government agencies that we wouldn't be able to do as a department. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) It would be possible, I believe, for the government to build facilities and then turn them over for the operations to the hamlet or to a non-profit organization. I believe that would be possible, similar to a parking garage. The Department of CGS builds parking garages and they turn them over, "Here you go hamlet. You operate them."

I'm just concerned that if we keep on saying to communities, "Well, if you want a domestic violence shelter, then find an old house, okay, find an old house, fix it up because it will be probably one that is not in use because it is not in a very good condition. Fix it up and then we will give you some money to do the O&M." I don't know. I think that these types of facilities could also be built as brand-new, purpose-designed facilities, especially when you have things like security that needs to be considered. Sometimes they need to have secure entrances; they need to have security cameras.

I guess I'll just circle around again and ask that same question: going forward for future capital budgets, will this department take a rethink or reconsider the approach to how they are building or dealing with this capital need across the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to thank the member and members for continuing to raise this and profiling in terms of the need throughout this territory. There is a lot of need throughout this territory. This is one avenue that we have done and through your comments and through the comments that we get from the House, each of those are taken and taken very seriously to think and rethink on how we operate. I think this is one on shelters, whether we need to build new ones or to rely on societies.

I think our current minister is working really hard into trying to find good solutions in terms of this and working with the staff. I'm going to take your statement and I'll bring it to the current minister and also to the staff and say, "Yes, let's take a hard look in terms of how we're addressing this." I think it's going to be an ongoing dialogue with my cabinet colleagues.

There's a lot of need out there and when we start building something like a new health centre in one community, I think the most popular place that communities go for is the old health centre. It's just like that with every community that has

been built because there is a lot of need. I just wanted to take the member's question and take that and we will definitely bring it as part of our consideration as a government. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. You indicated that you would bring this forward to the cabinet. Thank you for that.

(interpretation ends) Just a final comment or suggestion, as part of this work to consider how to approach these needs, if the department could look at developing a wait-list type of measurement, if it doesn't exist already, in terms of domestic violence. For example, you could use crime statistics to build up sort of a community-by-community wait-list, adults who need supported living, I believe there could be records or numbers, just to try to identify where the need is on a community-by-community basis as opposed to waiting for communities to self-identify through their hamlets or charities. It's just a suggestion. (interpretation) That's my final comment. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. How do I stop this? (interpretation ends) I guess I learn. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleagues for those good questions. (interpretation ends) The largest capital that was or not the largest but capital that was last year's

capital was focused on getting an electronic system for our caseworkers. Those are the data and information that will be very useful for our department and for this government to help identify some of the needs that are out there. I think that that electronic system is just at its global testing right now and we're training our family services staff in terms of how to use it and how to input it.

I think a lot of that information will start getting more as our benchmarks in terms of "Okay, which communities are in dire need and which communities need," and so I think it will be a good tool to help decision-makers make those kinds of decisions instead of the community that screams the loudest or the community that's showing because a lot of our communities are unique in each way, but I think it's through these systems that we will be able to help our decision-makers make decisions based on what's out in the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main, do you have any more questions? Okay, I have no more...oh, names are going up. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials.

As a preamble, sharing information has been brought up on more than one occasion and the Member for Hudson Bay is well aware of that, but we are concerned about highly sensitive and confidential issues that the Department of Family Services deals with. That's a cause for concern if they are working

with other outside entities. That's my first comment.

My main question is regarding correspondence we received from the minister in March 2019 stating that they would be requesting new offices for Baker Lake and Pangnirtung. Although it's being requested, it was said that it would be quite challenging, as the minister indicated that it is very difficult to get external funds for capital projects.

I'll ask my question in English. (interpretation ends) What are some of the challenges faced by the Department of Family Services with respect to office space in Nunavut communities? (interpretation) That's the first one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for that question. There are a number of key factors that play into this. One of the main things is that as a government we go through the requests for proposals and we seek office space. Depending on which communities they are, we don't get the level of response that we get from, let's say, other communities. That's probably one of the main concerns that we have is the lack of response we get when we put out a request for proposals in terms of trying to get office space. That would be my immediate response at this point, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I said, there are a lot of highly sensitive and confidential issues that the Department of Family Services deals with. This is a very important matter, so I encourage you to work harder on that because social workers need to have their own offices to deal with the many confidential matters.

Again, moving on to another subject in of your opening comments, (interpretation ends) when is it anticipated that the Department of Family Services' new case management system will be up and running in all Nunavut communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Quassa. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We anticipate the system to be in use during this fiscal year, but a test run is being done right now. There is also data that is being entered into the system. All our employees in Nunavut are being trained on the new system. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I keep coming back to the same topic on the many confidential cases that the Department of Family Services deals with. (interpretation ends) As I said earlier, information collected in the Department of Family Services' new case management system will be highly

sensitive and confidential. What measures are in place to ensure that the electronic information will be secure and protected? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Madam Chairperson, for security purposes, I cannot answer that. (interpretation) I'm just kidding.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) I want to give members an update in terms of the level of security and the level of privacy. The Department of Family Services met when I had a discussion or meetings with the access to information commissioner and through the privacy, and there are a number of recommendations that her office had made in terms of making sure the level of privacy is done through that.

For the security side, we work very closely with Community and Government Services' IT to ensure that those security systems are in place that has the level of security. That has been the utmost thing that privacy is protected and data stays secure with encrypted passwords and sessional timeouts and case-level permissions so only certain levels an individual can look at, then there are the managers and directors and above. There's a level of security doing that. The sensitive documents can be encrypted and/or password-protected automatically, ensuring staying private even if we're going outside the system. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. Dealing with confidential matters is very important and you recognize the importance of dealing with it carefully. We have also recognized its importance, but the workers have to be very careful when dealing with these matters.

Let me move on to something else. Shelters were brought up earlier and the minister stated that if a community wants to create a shelter, they need society status. There is a shelter in Iqaluit and there are shelters in other communities. Are they not going to put more consideration towards shelters, such as grants and contributions or funding for capital items? They must have everything they require and that's why they're not mentioned here at all. Shelters and such must have all the equipment they need. I don't know. That's my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for the question. We provide operations and maintenance funding to shelters. We know that the shelters in the communities need resources to keep up with the demand. We know that the women's shelter in Iqaluit is at 111 percent capacity.

I would like to add that last week when I became the Acting Minister of Family

Services, I did a report on the Uquutaq Men's Shelter programs as it will be expanded. We are interested in working with the societies to create shelters or expand those services. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Akeegok. It's obvious that those (interpretation ends) shelters and that (interpretation) have been considered thoroughly. We can see that today through the questions being posed. Mr. Quassa has no more questions. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good day, minister, I mean acting minister.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) I just have a question regarding the capital estimates on the substantiation sheets. I have asked this before in our standing committee last month if Hall Beach, one of my ridings, is also included in this business plan. That's my first question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Yes, it's included there and we also expect that it will cost approximately \$10,000 to renovate the building. That's in our plans. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you for that information. Looking at the

upgrades, there are many government buildings that require upgrades. Another concern that always comes up is smaller communities that have no daycares. Perhaps you can use this \$10,000 to support my constituency communities of Hall Beach and part of Igloolik to establish daycares. Would you be able to assist those communities in establishing daycares?

As you stated, you would like to provide more support to children and families. I also believe that you can set aside funds for daycares. As my colleague from Arviat North-Whale Cove stated, if you can set aside funds for those communities that have no daycares, I believe you would be doing a better job of carrying out your duties as a department. Is that possible for you to do? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. (interpretation ends) I'm not sure if that's a question for Education or not, but I'll pass it over to Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank you. The funding that we're requesting is just for the Department of Family Services and we can't suddenly move them to another program. If we do that, then it would need permission from the House to move the money. During the Department of Education's appearance before the Committee of the Whole, there were discussions around creating new daycares. To set aside money to create a daycare, the community can request funding from that if they have a building available.

However, I would not support setting

aside the \$10,000 for daycares because the Hall Beach office needs to be renovated. That's what the plan is for and we're seeking approval for that. Hopefully my colleagues can give me approval to spend the \$700,000 that's being proposed by the Department of Family Services to renovate the offices. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I know it had to do with the Department of Education, but I was trying to see if the Department of Family Services could help. Thank you for explaining that that can't be done.

What about the shelters? Shelters are very much in demand, especially when you're in a small community. Where can they go for shelter? Do you know how many shelters there are in my constituency communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. There is only one shelter in the Baffin region and that's in Iqaluit, so the residents in the Baffin region come to Iqaluit. That is the only women's shelter in the Baffin. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you once again. It's very confusing for

me today, but thank you for responding to my questions. I would provide further support if the smaller communities can get more help from the Department of Family Services.

I will move on to something else. Child rearing is considered important by the government. This is not a question; it's just some words of support. You can respond if you want. It's okay if you don't respond. What can you do to help the smaller communities when the Department of Family Services has offices in those communities? How can families get help in bringing up their children properly? I'm sure there is a way for you to help, not just through income support, but try to get them jobs. That's my suggestion to help those people. Thank you for responding to my questions. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Would you like to respond to that, Minister Akeegok?

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. It's supposed to be for all the communities. We work with the police and the Department of Family Services. When someone is in danger in the community, we have pointed out homes that people can go to for shelter. These are like secret shelters. We have safe houses set aside. They don't want to be mentioned, such as "Yes, these funds are to use Joelle's house as a shelter." We are cautious of saying such things because they're confidential.

However, almost all communities have safe homes, which are created through collaboration between the police and the Department of Family Services. I don't

want to talk too much about safe houses because they are confidential. If we publicize it, then people who shouldn't go there might go there.

During ministers' statements today, I mentioned that we have spent \$170,000 for Inunnguiniq. We try to work on initiatives geared toward healthy lifestyles. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Qamaniq, it's your turn now.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Looking at the funding that will be used for vehicles, they're planning to spend quite a bit of money for the acting minister's department. They want to use \$135,000 for vehicles in Nunavut, probably in the regions of Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot.

The Department of Family Services' proposed 2020-21 capital estimates for small capital has identified three new vehicles. The vehicles that were identified in committee will be purchased to provide services in the communities. How many communities need more than two vehicles? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If there's a population of more than 1,000, they need two vehicles. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now, having been just elected and having just assumed my seat, I don't have a multitude of questions, but perhaps I can ask my last question in English.

(interpretation ends) How will this decision impact the Department of Family Services' plan to develop a new comprehensive career development case management system? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Through you, Deputy Minister Niego can probably respond to the question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) For career development, the current plan is to wait for a couple of reasons; one is the child and family services database system is still undergoing full implementation. From there each database from the different program areas within Family Services was to connect to each other. We also have a transition of the student financial assistance program to move to Education. There are current structures within Family Services that are changing and we have to adapt our database management plan along with that.

(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Qirngnuq, it's your turn.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I would like to add onto the questions on shelters. As it was stated earlier, there is a shelter here in Iqaluit. In our home community there is a safe house for women, but there is no men's shelter. Keeping that in mind, I'll ask my question regarding the women's shelter that has a committee, which is why it exists. Now, if they were to submit a request for a men's shelter, would it go through the hamlet or through the women's shelter committee? Madam Chairperson, I hope that was a good question. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. There has been a lot of discussion today about shelters and the minister has been stating that that's under O&M and he will probably give you that same answer, but Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, it's through O&M. Those who want to establish shelters either go through societies or hamlets. In regard to what my colleague mentioned, there are no men's shelters set up right now, but it is starting to be discussed and we look forward to the establishment of such shelters. However, if we're going to provide funding, it will be through operations and maintenance. Thank you,

Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Qirngnuq, do you have non-shelter questions that you would like to ask? Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Before I ask about vehicles, I would like to get clarification. Are mental health workers and social workers employed in one department or which department are they located under? Before I ask about vehicles, I would like the minister to respond to that, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Those are two different positions. Social workers fall under Family Services while mental health workers fall under Health. If they are going to use vehicles, they should have an agreement or have a separate vehicle. There are slight differences between communities. I don't know how it is set up in your communities specifically, but we expect that social workers would be using Family Services vehicles. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Qirngnuq, any more questions? You're done? Okay. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) We are on D-3 Family Services, Corporate Management. \$700,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

>>Laughter

Chairperson: Okay, if everybody could turn to D-2. Family Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$700,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you. We will take a five-minute...Oh, yes, I have to get the...Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. We will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 14:37 and resumed at 14:45

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Office of the
Legislative Assembly –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairperson: Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. I would now like to ask Speaker Mikkungwak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I do.

Chairperson: Does the committee agree to let the Speaker and his official go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official in.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your official.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my right is our Clerk, Mr. John Quirke. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, please proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson and members. I am pleased to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the proposed 2020-21 capital budget is significantly less than what was requested for approval for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This is a result of the progress made over the past year in completing the upgrades to our audiovisual systems to bring them up to modern, digital standards.

(interpretation ends) Ensuring the functionality of these systems supports our objective of making our institution's proceedings accessible to those Nunavummiut who do not have the opportunity to attend them in person. As members will recall, the first successful test of the new system was held last month on the occasion of our special one-day sitting of the House.

That concludes my opening comments. I thank you and members for your support. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Speaker Mikkungwak. Are there any general comments? Seeing none, I would like to go to A-3 of the main estimates. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Assembly Operations. \$275,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I wish to take this opportunity to question our Speaker and I only have one question. There will be upgrades to the audiovisual systems. We're all aware that technology is always evolving. How many years will the new upgrades within the Legislative Assembly last? That's my final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Clerk will respond to the question asked by Member Main. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I can't give you a specific time frame of how long the new upgrades will last. The work that we did replaced equipment that we installed in 1999, so it lasted 20 years. Now, of course we are advancing in new technology, so it might be nice if I can say definitely it will last 10, 15, or 25 years. I do not know, but it's definitely a significant upgrade that we have done to our system, so hopefully it will last many years. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quirke. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) *Tunngasugit*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Now, broadcasting our proceedings is a critical requirement for many of our fellow Nunavummiut as we want to be heard and observed onscreen. We recently heard that the Co-ops have recently moved to a new digital system, and some communities no longer use the old cables to watch television as they switch to the newer high-definition channels.

We as members want our constituents to be able to watch the proceedings and to be heard when we are voicing their concerns during our sittings. Do we have any possible options in this case? Having the proceedings televised is important to our constituents, who must also know what is happening. I am unsure if this is a relevant question or not. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I can partially answer the question that Member Quassa just raised. I will answer part of it where I can and my Clerk may add further details to the answer.

Now, it is obvious that changes are coming throughout the world, and now here in Nunavut the Co-ops are changing to the digital system in trying to keep up with the technological advances. I can use Baker Lake as an example, which I am familiar with.

The local Co-op cable has been used up to now, but as they start transferring to this new technology, and here I mean (interpretation ends) Arctic Co-operatives, (interpretation) as that is their systemic change towards more high-definition channels, or in English (interpretation ends) digital satellite feed, (interpretation) where they are installing satellite dishes outside, but Arctic Co-operatives has initiated this and it's not from the Legislative Assembly.

However, if the Clerk wants to add to the answer to his question, I would ask that he do so. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now, this is a new development. When I say "new development," the past year some cable providers are getting out of the business from the point of view of running their own network within the community and they are abandoning that. It's no doubt a business decision on their part, but instead of providing a service through satellite where they are providing the dish and you subscribe to that service, the impact for many of the communities is that if the local provider doesn't abandon that type of system, then all they can do is buy a satellite dish.

The best that we can do is that when we talk to Telesat Canada, "How do we get our programming to communities where the person doesn't have a local TV company?" It may be very difficult. If they're abandoning that service and all you can do is watch TV through a

satellite dish, then there is very little that we could do since we do not operate our own TV stations, etcetera. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Quirke. (interpretation) Anything further, Mr. Quassa? Are you done? I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Oh, sorry. I'm sorry. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I just want clarification on substantiation sheet page 3 of 3. It says or it tells me, "The project affects the Chamber, control room, Nanuq and Tuktu boardrooms within the Legislative Assembly building. It also affects the media room, interpretation booth, and various patch panels throughout the building." (interpretation) The way I understand this in Inuktitut is they are separate parts, (interpretation ends) the patch panels. (interpretation) I don't really understand what they are, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker (interpretation): Yes, I will try to answer her question adequately. Now, the audiovisual systems within the Legislative Assembly were upgraded to keep up with technology. It involved splicing walls in order to pull wires through the Chamber here, as well as the offices upstairs and the boardrooms. Further, this meant that the interpretation booth, the media room, and the control room will now be using the exact same equipment. That is why it speaks to the patch panels, as we can now use all the same equipment in the Legislative Assembly. All the sound systems

required that wires be pulled to connect them all. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you. It's my final question, Madam Chairperson. On substantiation sheet page 2 of 4, warranty 2020-21, that will be the warranty period. Why is it for only one year instead of five or four, or longer? Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's my final question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Clerk will respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Clerk: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Probably the wrong terminology, the equipment that we have installed, that type of equipment has its own built-in warranty. This, like I mentioned, is probably the wrong word that we have used.

As we work through the system, there are going to be little kinks that we have to fix and we have identified some already, and as I'm talking, I see my thing is flashing in front of me. I don't think it should be happening that way. When we run out of time, we don't have a constant signal saying time is out, time is out, time is out. We have to fix those little things. We have a problem at the table in terms of communicating with the interpreter booth, etcetera.

We already know that because we brought in something new, we see challenges in terms of interfacing programming with some of our equipment and our programmers. That's the money we're going to use that for. Like I said, it's the wrong terminology. It's fixing things that are the result of new installations that we didn't see happening. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Quirke. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Assembly Operations. Total Capital Expenditures. \$275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page A-2. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures. \$275,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you have any closing comments, Mr. Mikkungwak?

Speaker (interpretation): I thank my colleagues for approving our capital expenditures. I would like to inform the members that the equipment we using today provides good sound quality. Every time we meet in the Chamber, there is good sound quality and it shows better on television. I thank you for your approval of our budget. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness from the witness table. Before we proceed to the next department, we shall have a 20-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 15:01 and resumed at 15:20*

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairperson: Okay, welcome back, everybody. We will now proceed with the next department. I would like to ask Minister Netser: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I would like to have a couple of officials with me. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Does the committee to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

For the record, Minister Netser, please introduce your officials. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my right is the President of the Housing Corporation, Terry Audla, and to my left is our Chief Financial Officer, Ji Liu. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. I understand that you have opening comments for us today. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: I do. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson and members. Before I make my comments on the housing corporation's 2020-21 capital estimates, I would like to make a brief statement.

I would like to show my appreciation to Mr. Main, who wrote a letter to me in his capacity as the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus regarding some concerns. I wrote back to Mr. Main stating that my staff would work on his requests.

Additionally, with respect to the question asked by the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet regarding the rent scale, we will have it reviewed. I want to be completely open and with government transparency, we want to provide proper responses to you and Nunavummiut.

I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Madam Chairperson and committee members. I appear before you again to finish presenting the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital plan for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Before I begin, I would like to thank Mr. Main, who sent correspondence to me in his role as the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus. The letter addressed concerns with my first appearance before this committee and I responded to that correspondence and advised Mr. Main that I have directed my officials to initiate an independent review of the allocation system and the rental scale.

It's very important to me that we demonstrate that our government is transparent and accountable to committee members and all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) I look forward to discussing the budget before you today. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation ends) Any general comments? General comments? If not, let's go to L-2. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital Expenditures. \$43,443,000. Questions? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now, our main focus was on the new methodology that is starting to be used to allocate housing units to our communities. (interpretation ends) Methodology, (interpretation) I can finally pronounce it.

With that being the case, we identified that particular matter after we received correspondence from the chair of the housing corporation. Most of the housing units that will be constructed will follow the housing corporation's new methodology to allocate units to communities. Now, we had a major concern over that.

In thinking of the community of Igloolik, there was a big drop in the housing wait-list between 2016 and 2020. The numbers were drastically reduced based on the new methodology that was going to be used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Let me start off by asking for

clarification, especially since you have gone on record as saying that consistency or a similar rule is used that is acceptable, as you just stated. What is the exact status of Igloolik when it comes to that methodology? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the member for his question. The methodology we use to allocate housing units that will be constructed in the communities is not new, as it was implemented in 2013 and it was referred to the committee for review.

With respect to what the housing corporation uses to allocate units earmarked for construction, for Igloolik, whom the member represents, the numbers were taken erringly. That's why the waiting list for housing dropped drastically, as apparently some of our employees erred with those numbers, which is unfortunate. However, the planned construction projects haven't changed. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The minister stated that they made some mistakes, and I am sure that they will apologize for those mistakes. The minister also stated that they're not going to make any changes to the current construction plan, even though they indicated that they made some mistakes. With that being the case, as we are speaking, how many housing units are being constructed right now in

Igloolik? I know the answer, but I'm just asking the question for the benefit of the people who are watching and listening to the proceedings. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the member. I did indicate that they made mistakes and we do apologize. I said that we regretted that.

There are 20 housing units being constructed in Igloolik for 2019-2020. They have been constructing the foundations of those housing units to date. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Since there were mistakes made on the numbers that will be used for the year and the minister indicated that there were some errors made, I'm sure that we're not going to see the same mistakes again. As we have a severe housing crisis, if we keep hearing about mistakes, it will remain status quo. He did state that he will have the housing allocation methodology reviewed. When will this review begin? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you. I have directed our staff to have the review started as soon as possible. The correspondence from Mr.

Main is requesting that they be included and kept updated, so we will be following up with them to ask for their input. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm just talking about Igloolik, but I'm sure that there are also errors made in the other communities, as he stated that they made some errors. I'm sure it's not only Igloolik that's in this situation.

With the housing shortage still being the case, I look forward to seeing accurate numbers during our deliberations on next year's capital estimates. I will want to see accurate numbers and I'm sure my colleagues feel the same way. We like to see accurate information when we are making decisions on large sums of money.

This is just a comment now as I don't really have any more questions. My fellow residents of Igloolik will always experience a housing shortage and it's not really going to change because of the mistakes that were made. That's what I believe is the case. That's just a comment, but we expect to get accurate information as members on this side. The ministers must be fully aware of the issues and have accurate information. Therefore I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. It's just a comment, but would you like to respond to that, Minister Netser?

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Even though we made a mistake with Igloolik, there hasn't been a decrease in the number of housing units to be constructed in Igloolik. Igloolik is not the only community where mistakes were made. I do apologize and I did apologize, as we do make human errors. As ministers, we report on the information provided by staff, which the member should know as he used to be a minister.

Even with the numbers adjusted for houses slated for Igloolik, due to the fact that other communities have a higher need, Igloolik is not included in the list to receive these housing units that we have planned. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. I believe Mr. Quassa is done. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon, minister. I'm very glad that we're back to deliberating this. We all know that we have disputes and disagreements with each other at times, but that's the process and we have to work together.

I would like to thank the minister for responding to my letter, which clarified some things for me. There was a clerical error for Igloolik. I'll read what it says on page 2 in English. (interpretation ends) It mentions here the Nunavut Management System, which is used to evaluate the LHO waiting list. That's the first time I have heard of this Nunavut Management System, so I wonder if we could get a bit more information about what it is and what exact type of

information is inside that system.
(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Through you, I ask my deputy head to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Nunavut Management System is the upgraded version of the RSMS, the Rent Scale Management System. We use that for the purposes of determining within each public unit how many occupants may be within it, depending on the primary tenant, whether or not that individual has a spouse and how many dependants. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Does the Nunavut Management System also contain information on the people themselves who are on the wait-list or does that information just stay at the local level? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's the system we use to see whether the dependants are of age. That's what it's for. (interpretation)

Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I didn't really get the answer I was looking for, but here I'll ask my question in a different way.

If somebody has been on the waiting list under the current methodology, I thank the minister and the housing corporation for agreeing to review this because... . I'll give you an example. With the current methodology, somebody could live in, let's say, Whale Cove or Chesterfield Inlet and they could be on the waiting list for 15 years, but their community is not a very high wait-list compared to other communities, but that individual should receive some sort of priority. In my mind, somebody who has been on the wait-list for over 10 years should receive special consideration.

I'll just ask the minister for his position on that in terms of the work that will be done to revise the methodology, the independent review of the allocation system that's mentioned here.
(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) That certainly will be included in the review. We encourage our LHOs to keep an updated list on people applying for housing. They have to come in and apply every six months. I'm trying to encourage the MLA to give

out the information to his riding or his constituents, and we work with our LHOs in terms of encouraging them to keep an updated list on the housing file. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation) Mr. Main, any more questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) In terms of this independent review, does the housing corporation have a plan for who will be doing this review? Is it independent? Does that mean it will be a contractor? (interpretation) I would like to know exactly who will be responsible for undertaking this review. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It will be independent, yes. I believe we have a list of these independent companies that do reviews. We will be using them and they will be independent. We will give them the issues before us and then they're going to do the review themselves. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Again I would just like to thank the housing corporation for committing to do this. I'm hopeful going forward that this will improve things. I would encourage the housing corporation to give that contractor, whoever it is, as

much free rein as they need, like make their review as independent as possible and through whatever means necessary.

Una still on the public housing file but referring to your substantiation sheet, it mentions here that "All public housing construction is tendered out through requests for tender using supply-ship-and-erect contracts. This method of tendering ensures that the NHC obtains competitive pricing and shifts the logistical and other risks to the contractor." This type of contracting is very difficult for a lot of the smaller, home-grown contractors to deal with. The former practice used to be labour-only contracts were used and supplies were bought separately. It has really negatively impacted a lot of companies, not just in my constituency but across Nunavut.

When it says here, "competitive pricing," does it mean that if a different contracting method is used, if you tender the materials and the labour separately, the cost of a public housing unit will go up in terms of capital? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) As for the independent review of the NHC's practices on the methodology, we're going to give them, like I said earlier, the issues before us and we're not going to interfere. I assure the floor that this minister and his staff are not going to interfere with the process.

As for the question around the labour

and material only, I'm committed to looking at that. I served a community that once benefited from the labour only and I would like to see that happen, lift the morale of the community, and we have the workforce in some communities that can handle that type of work. I think it's quite obvious that any money staying within our communities is a real benefit, whether it costs a little bit more, but more people are employed and the morale of the community is lifted up when we allow our local contractors to build our homes in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Minister, I agree with you wholeheartedly, very much so.

(interpretation ends) Just a clarification, the minister mentioned the independent review. The letter says it's going to cover the allocation system and the rent scale. Is this independent review also going to cover the contracting method, the supply-ship-erect versus labour-only, materials-only? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: That review will not include that portion, but I'm committed to, like the member from Sanikiluaq asked me earlier the first time I appeared before COW, I would be willing to look at that model of labour-only and the material-only aspects of the contract, but I'm committed to seeing that happen in the life of this current government. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Do you have any more questions, Mr. Main? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I do have questions, but they're not in regard to (interpretation ends) public housing. (interpretation) I would like direction from you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Would you like me to continue or give it a break? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Does it pertain to capital, Mr. Main? Then go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) On the Heating Oil Replacement Program, your substantiation sheet on page 2, it says here, this is the top of the page, "A lot of Nunavut's privately-owned homes were purchased or built in the late 1980s and 1990s and require regular replacement and renewal to preserve their condition and extend their life." (interpretation) I would like a bit more information. The housing corporation must have done a very good job because many people got private homes back then. Can the minister clarify that for the members? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. I got a house at that time too with the (interpretation ends) HAP program. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): I didn't quite understand the question, Madam Chairperson. Can the member restate the question? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main, please clarify that.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My question is: what was happening in the 1980s and 1990s that led to so many private homes being built? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think he is referring to the former HAP program before we turned Nunavut. Is that correct, Mr. Main? Okay.

(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) There are many homeowners that benefited from the HAP program, and I can say, in my community, I believe there is around 45 or even more, I'm sorry, a lot more than that have benefited from this HAP program and it worked really well back then. I don't see any reason why it shouldn't work good again today because I have been saying that for every home we build for a person who is renting from social housing, that social housing is freed up for the overcrowding people across our territory.

I'm an example. I rented social housing back in the '70s into the '80s and when I built my HAP house, I got out of the books of the government and I have been independent since then. It's great to see people having their own homes and independent from government. This is what I want to see, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would really like to see that too because it really benefited people in those days and people still talk about it when we talk about housing in the House. When we talk about this again next year, hopefully there will be some funding proposals for it. I'll look forward to that.

(interpretation ends) My next few questions, I don't have much time left, are about the LHO workshop. Arviat is scheduled for design development in 2020-21. I was looking at the substantiation sheet and on page 3 it says, "Future projects will be scaled according to the LHO's requirements as well as the consideration for existing infrastructure."

In terms of the design development in regard to Arviat, I would like some reassurances that the local housing organization isn't going to end up with a smaller shop than they have already. I'll just turn that over to the minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the member for the question. I have been to the workshop there in Arviat myself a couple of times over the summer. I assure the member that when we build a warehouse facility in Arviat, it will be based upon the size of the community. (interpretation) Thank you,

Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I guess my next question is: how will the local housing organization themselves be consulted with in terms of designing this thing and deciding what it's going to look like and where it will be located? I do believe that they are the experts when it comes to the delivery of the local housing programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The regional districts will be working with, let's say, Arviat on their warehouse office facility. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I look forward to seeing that built; it's way overdue.

My last line of questioning is on the M&Is, modernization and improvements. On page 2 the sheet mentions, "For 2020 and 2021 and future years, the NHC needs to start budgeting for M&Is based on actual need." The amount for this year is \$10.6 million. Is that the actual need amount or, if not, what is the actual need

amount? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's based on actual need and also included in that budget is our plan to do some mould remediation as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Just to confirm that, the current budgeted amount for M&Is for public housing is sufficient because I had seen it written down elsewhere that this was not enough money to address the wear and tear on the public housing stock. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Through you, I would ask the person on my left to answer the question, Mr. Ji Liu. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, member, for the question. The current year estimate is a combination of the carryover from previous years and the additional amount of this year and based on the capacity that we have right now. The short

answer is yes, based on the current capacity, it should have been good enough for next year's M&I project. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Liu. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Well, I mean, I guess I'll just end it with a comment. I don't think this amount is sufficient. Just speaking on behalf of the local housing organizations in Arviat and Whale Cove, they're struggling to keep up on the maintenance with public housing units. They are struggling and they are short, and I would hope that they are being consulted when you are developing these budgets because I believe that they are continually short. They never have enough M&I money to repair their units. That's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. That's just a comment. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Chairperson. I thank the minister for reconsidering an independent review of the rent scale. It's badly needed and I'm very grateful that the NHC will be doing that.

My question is with regard to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. It would be changed to require applicants to have lived in the territory for at least one year prior to applying for assistance under the program. Professionally I believe one year is too short a time to apply. However, these changes came into effect on April 1,

2017. What has been the impact of this change and that's to be eligible for the down payment assistance program for a house? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The program my colleague is asking about has not changed. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Netser. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. One of the communities I represent, Rankin Inlet is, very... . Because of the mine close by, the wait-list is at 207 and at least 15 houses will be built.

However, in saying that, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual budget for homeownership programs has not changed since 2010-11. That's a few years back. What are the corporation's actual expenditures on homeownership programs for the 2019 fiscal year, and was this amount sufficient to meet the number of eligible applicants? I'm saying that because with the mine, there is a lot of employment. We do need some options for the community of Rankin Inlet. That's my final question, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: I thank the member for the question. Part of the question is that it has been in homeownership review. That's one of

the things that we hope to address and for more money towards the homeownership programs. We will know better when the review is done and it's the one I plan to table during this session.

As for the other question, I would like Mr. Audla to elaborate a little bit more on that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To date, when we look at the numbers from 2016, 2017, and 2018, in 2016 we had 100 percent approved for 61 applicants; in 2017-18 it was 58 percent approved with 53 new applications; and in 2018-19, 73 applicants at 73 percent approved.

The Nunavut down payment assistance, as the minister alluded to, is being captured within the homeownership program review. As part of that review, we are looking at amalgamating all the homeownership programs. The difficulty in the situation on a territory-wide basis is that the Nunavut down payment assistance relies on the resale of a home and not necessarily the new construction of a home. That's something that we're trying to look at as well. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Just before we go on, Mr. Audla, can you just clarify the numbers that you were stating? Is that for all of Nunavut or for Rankin Inlet? Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I apologize. It's for all

the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Audla. The next person on my list is Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't have many questions, but what I would like to ask about is (interpretation ends) in the opening comments the minister stated about some tiny homes being built or underway in some Nunavut communities. I just want to find out more. (interpretation) I have heard that they're starting to build tiny homes in Cambridge Bay. Have other communities been considered or is the housing corporation planning to build such homes? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for the question. The ones in Cambridge Bay are independent and they are not connected to the housing corporation. We are keeping a close eye on it. (interpretation ends) We're monitoring it and we will see what happens if and when the small homes they're building up in Cambridge Bay are done. We are keeping a close watch on it. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That's good news. Well, it's a pilot project.

When we first started our session, I brought this up. It seems like a further review is required on what types of homes are needed. After our session, it was the first time my constituency assistant got a house after 25 years of being on the wait-list. In particular single people wait for a long time. Also, it was in the newspaper that they're building tiny homes in Kuuujuaq. It seems to be much needed in Nunavut, especially for single people who are on the waiting list. They should be given priority. There are many Nunavummiut who are homeless. It's called couch-surfing, especially for single people. I just wanted to reiterate that to the housing corporation.

I would like to ask about the September 12 letter, which indicates the status of the communities. Do you use the numbers that they have when the applications are renewed after six months? Is that used to identify where the community stands? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We build five-plexes and we work with the local housing organizations to determine what they want to see, such as one-bedroom units. When they ask to have one-bedroom units built, we get them built, considering the single people. We make decisions with the help of the local housing organizations.

I didn't hear the second question; I was talking to somebody else. I do apologize for not hearing her question, so if she could ask it again. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I tried to ask about the ranking of the wait-list in the communities. (interpretation ends) For example, Pangnirtung is ranked 19th. (interpretation) The people on the housing wait-list renew their application after six months. Do you look at the people who renew their application to determine where the community stands in the ranking? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We encourage the local housing organizations to get people on the wait-list to reapply after six months. Communities with longer waiting lists get priority for housing.

I can say that we are currently doing a review. There are many communities that haven't kept up with population growth when it comes to housing. We will be looking at overcrowding situations in certain communities. I won't say which community this is in, but there's a three-bedroom house with 21 people and that community won't be getting housing units for a long time.

Madam Chairperson, I have directed my officials to review it further and look at the overcrowding situations in communities. There is overcrowding everywhere and housing units aren't being built fast enough. That's what we are reviewing now. I hope that's clear. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qirngnuq, it's your turn.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll ask my questions in English, Madam Chairperson, so that I will be clear.

(interpretation ends) On September 10, 2018 the federal and territorial governments announced a federal investment of almost \$12 million that will go towards energy efficiency retrofits for Nunavut's public housing and installation of new district heating systems in the communities of Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak through the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Housing retrofits will include new insulation, weather stripping, window and door replacements, as well as hot water tanks and furnace upgrades. These projects will result in improved air quality and reduce maintenance costs and they will extend the life of almost one thousand housing units. As of today, what is the status of this work?

(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With respect to the member's question, in the Kitikmeot, Kugluktuk and Taloyoak were just being done; in the Kivalliq, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, and Rankin Inlet; and in the Baffin, Iqaluit, Igloolik, Hall Beach, and Sanikiluaq. Those are the communities where the \$12 million was spent with respect to his question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. The funding has been spent since 2018 and the work is being done. When do you expect the work to be completed? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have to send the materials in and they have to catch the sealift. We will be working on this project for four years. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to move to a different topic, specifically mould remediation, as changes were made. The project commenced on June 28, 2019 and the anticipated completion date is July 19, 2019. With respect to mould remediation work, there were changes made. As our colleague for Amittuq noted, prior to his departure last week, he mentioned it in his question. Apparently it noted that three units were completed in Kugaaruk. There are several old units still in use. I wonder what the status of this project is to date, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We're mostly done with mould remediation work, but there are still cases of mould being found in other units. We're almost completed those units, but we're also assessing the really old units, as we want to replace them because they cost a lot of money to maintain. We're planning for that, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the minister for informing us and Nunavummiut because the old units have a lot of mould in them. They should have been replaced many years ago, as we mostly know. It's just a comment.

I want to ask the following question on a different topic related to units that have maybe one bedroom or one tenant, which I would like clarification on, based on the design or blueprint and how it can be adapted to Nunavut. Are there any blueprints for that? I'm thinking of Nunavummiut who live in northern regions, so I believe they would know how to design the blueprints. That's my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that question was one I responded to earlier. I forget which of our colleagues asked it. Perhaps it was the Member for Pangnirtung who asked about that.

For the bachelor units, either for single people, or young people who are old enough to rent a unit, we work with the local housing organization in communities where we are constructing housing units to determine how many bedrooms they want per unit. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I hope I answered the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qamaniq, it's now your turn.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This relates to fire-damaged units that require replacement. It seems the numbers have decreased where it was \$4.7 million in the fiscal year 2019-2020, but now it is approximately only at \$1 million. Currently in the community, I wondered if this change was because of the replacement of the fire-damaged units where the amount was decreased for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): I was chatting with my official, so we didn't quite get his question. Can you repeat your question, Mr. Qamaniq? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the year of 2019-2020 fire damage replacement allocation was \$4,700,000 and for the year 2020-21, it has dropped significantly to \$1 million. My question is: are there other housing

units that have already been destroyed? Due to the fact that they already have been replaced, has the fire damage replacement allocation dropped? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, it was due to that reason it decreased, but the official to my left, Mr. Ji Liu, can elaborate on the response so that we understand clearly. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, member, for the question. For the fire damage fund, because we had a huge surplus from the previous years, this year we worked out a better budget management plan with the Department of Finance. Previously the funding was allocated towards a specific damaged unit and because of the limitation of the land, the construction, the tendering, and the size of the community, we found the previous allocation methodology actually is not working towards the best usage of the funding. This year we adjusted our budget management strategy with more flexibility.

What is going to happen is that we cannot treat overall fire damage funding as a pool of money and that means the money portion is not allocated to any specific unit. We can return...whichever community comes up and we will be able to use the funding to the full scale to cover the damaged unit. By taking on this methodology, we can actually

accelerate building more fire-damaged units or replace more fire-damaged units in the community. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Liu. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now I want to ask about the homeowners' assistance program funding of \$4,616,000, which has remained static from 2016 to 2021. Is the entire amount of funding expended by providing assistance to homeowners? I would like to know if the funds are adequate or if there are surpluses. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This fund is completely used for each fiscal year that we set aside for homeowners; the \$4,616,000 is completely used. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I wonder if nobody applies for this funding in Pond Inlet since it has been over ten years since Pond Inlet had a private home built. I wonder if anyone from our community ever applies to this funding because it has been over 10 years since we have seen the last homeowner who applied for assistance to construct a home. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We don't have the information on the applicants from each community, but I will get back to the member on whether there were any applicants from Pond Inlet specifically and I will also report on which communities received assistance. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now, we have heard of the proposed review of the rental scales. Employed people pay the highest rents, as obviously they are making an income from their employment, and I appreciate the fact that this review is scheduled to start.

A one-bedroom unit costs about \$1,400 to rent, a three-bedroom unit is about \$1,700, a four-bedroom unit is about \$2,100, and a five-bedroom unit is about \$2,400. These units were constructed back in 1966-67 and they are quite old now. In the 1980s many of these units were renovated and modernized, and no other work has been done on them since then.

I would like the rent scales to reflect whether it was built in the 1960s or those that were built in the 1980s, as the unit replacement costs should already have been paid for those units, especially with 60 years to date. I would like that to be included in the review and if rents could be scaled back due to the age of the units. I want this carefully considered.

Although this is primarily a comment, I also want to state that public housing tenants, as you stated, minister, many

face overcrowding on top of our housing shortage, as I imagine this will be the focus in the future.

Tenants in arrears who occupy a smaller unit are not allowed to move to a larger unit due to their debts. Can this also be included in the list of issues to be reviewed? If tenants with arrears are facing severe overcrowding, they should be able to trade units with more rooms, without their arrears being taken into account. I wonder if this is too onerous to include due to their arrears. I want to understand this issue, as I know I will get a good answer, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. With regard to the first question he asked about Pond Inlet and whether any applications have been submitted from his community, apparently there were three applicants for housing assistance from the 2017-18 fiscal year. There were three applications from his community. As well, there are quite a few reports on homeownership program funding and they were for communities in the Baffin, Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions.

Now, with regard to his question about arrears and overcrowding, there is a policy we follow. Tenants with arrears are not eligible to receive a unit, which is unfortunate. It is our policy as the housing corporation. If they pay off their arrears partially, we appreciate that as every dollar paid towards their arrears is noticed immediately by the housing corporation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation ends) The next name on my list is Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I only have three topics. The first question I have is the minister had indicated that he will be tabling the homeownership review before the end of the fall sitting. Madam Chairperson, we only have three days remaining, so I would like to ask when specifically the review will be tabled. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now, cabinet was supposed to meet earlier to approve that review which I wanted to table, but with respect to his question, I apologize because our meeting has been delayed and I will have to defer the tabling of the document to the winter sitting from this fall sitting. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Netser. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): I'm sorry. Once we have approved it, I'll table it in the House, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. We all know that the cost of constructing public housing and the cost of constructing anything is expensive. The minister had previously committed

to tabling another document that shows how the minister had concluded that conventional construction methods are the most cost effective. In relation to that document and the capital process that we're going through today, I was curious when the minister would also be able to table that document. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will table the document that he's asking about at our winter sitting in February. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. My next question to follow up on that is: why would it be delayed until the winter sitting? That's quite a long ways away, a number of months in fact. Is there sensitive information that's contained in that document? Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I haven't given it to cabinet, I can only table that document in the winter sitting.

I didn't quite get the second question, so if he can ask it again. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'm not very familiar with cabinet processes and I'm just curious if every document that is tabled has to receive cabinet approval. Is that the case? Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'll move on to my last topic. When it comes to assessing a community's relative need, especially for public housing, I was curious if the minister maintains or has recently conducted a community-by-community analysis of current housing stock and not just public housing stock but the whole spectrum; public housing, homeownership, and private market rentals. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, we haven't done that, but we all know that we have a severe housing crisis before us. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I guess I just have a recommendation for the minister. I think it's obvious that we do have a housing crisis and in order for us to really have a

thorough understanding of the situation, I think it would be in the minister's and the House's best interest if a thorough analysis was conducted of each community to have an idea of what the actual housing spectrum is. I guess I'll just put a recommendation or request out there for the minister if he could have that done before the next capital estimates. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his suggestion, but we won't be able to produce that kind of information by next session. We all know that we have a severe housing shortage across all of Nunavut and we do our best to address the housing needs for our communities. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. My next person, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would first thank you for responding to my letter and my questions regarding the status of your work. I thank you very much for that.

My first question is in regard to my other constituency community of Hall Beach. You can just respond with an indication. You had set aside \$570,000 according to your response. This was a question I posed on October 31. Are you on budget or under budget or over budget? How much has been spent to date? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaernerk. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for the question. When we make a request for a particular item and once it's approved, we try to make sure that we stay on budget because we are accountable to you. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Are you done? Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I didn't hear part of your response. Can you elaborate further? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaernerk. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you. When we make a request for an amount for a particular project, such as renovation, and when the budget is approved, we try to make sure we stay on budget and to report periodically. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Maybe I will rephrase my question. You worked on four projects and two more projects are slated for the upcoming year in 2020. (interpretation ends) Is it on budget or is it on the other side? Is it in deficit or is it on budget? (interpretation) That's my question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaernerk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My understanding is it's on budget. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, in the letter you presented on September 12, 2019 you were talking about the houses that were built. I am representing half of Igloolik and it indicates here, (interpretation ends) "...pending confirmation of land availability via fund or redevelopment of funding." (interpretation) The people of Amittuq don't have any developed lots around that area for 2020-21. Is it because of the lack of available land that you are not going to be building houses in that area? That's what I would like to know and that's my last question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaernerk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will refer this question to the president. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With respect to the 20 units in Igloolik, they are going to be built. It is hoped that the lots within the community are either being prepared, if not prepared already. That has always been somewhat of an issue when we go

to communities with allocated new construction, Kimmirut being an example where they haven't been able to secure any lots for a number of years. It's also the case here in Iqaluit where development of any new subdivision has been about eight years out. It's always a difficulty when we try to plan for something. This is why we opted to go with a two-year forecast so that we can assist the communities to be able to better plan and to also work towards addressing any lot development within those communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Audla. Ms. Kamingoak, it's your turn.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include \$1 million in funding for its fire replacement fund. The capital project substantiation sheet indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting to have deferred funding in the amount of \$2.05 million for fire-damaged units in Clyde River, Coral Harbour, and Kugluktuk. How was the amount of deferred funding calculated, and does the Nunavut Housing Corporation plan to replace all of the units during the 2020-21 fiscal year? *Koana*, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for the question. Yes, we are planning to

do exactly as she asked. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Kamingoak, any more questions?

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Madam Chairperson. I thank the minister for your response. The capital project substantiation sheet indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working towards developing a new policy to address the rebuild of fire-damaged units and how new construction may be addressed to meet the needs of the communities. What specific changes to the current policy are being considered, and what is the timeline for finalizing and tabling the new policy? *Koana*, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Our fire expert, Ji Liu, can respond to the question, with your permission. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, member, for the question. I think I missed a little bit from our previous answer regarding the fire damage fund, yes. The money looks like it dropped compared from the previous year, but that is due to the policy change. The policy change basically is like it was set before. Previous practice was that once we have

a report of a fire-damaged unit, then we will go to the Department of Finance asking for the replacement funds. Because of that practice and before the accounting treatment or methodology is that I have to lock that fund for that specific unit in the report of the community, but because of that and again due to the construction plan, due to the land availability, Nunavut Housing might not be able to use that fund for the specific community right away.

We changed the approach this year, which is treat it as a huge... . From the book, we can see that there is a huge surplus in the fire damage fund in the NHC's book. What do we do? The new policy is that we're going to treat this whole surplus as a pool of money, not allocated to any specific unit. When we come to our construction plan, for example, this year for Iqaluit, we will be able to, instead of using the locked fund, use all the pool money to replace all the fire-damaged units in this community, which is Iqaluit. By doing that, we will have better financial management and more efficient usage of the fund.

To the member's question, \$1 million is not enough, but the plan is that after we deplete the surplus in the pool two-third of threshold, let's say for example, \$5 million, which is what we feel is a safe net, and we will go back to the Department of Finance with a list of all the outstanding fire-damaged units and present it to the Department of Finance and say, "Okay, these are the units we have been able to replace in the previous years and these are all the outstanding units that we are going to replace in the future." By that time we will ask the Department of Finance for more funding for the replacement. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Liu. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$43,443,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$43,443,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree that we have concluded the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Closing comments, please, minister.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the members for approving this budget. Even though we went through some difficulties, we are working. We disagreed with each other for a little while, but we are representing Nunavummiut, so we continue and we will not stop. I thank you all very much.

You can expect the report we will be working on. It will be provided in French. We will provide a detailed report once the review is done. It's obvious that it will be complex work. Thank you very much. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out of the witness table. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like you to report progress to our Speaker. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Member Angnakak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Member Kamingoak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Continuing on. Third Reading of Bills. Continuing on. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For tomorrow, there's now a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom, and there's also a meeting of the Management and Services Board at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for November 5:

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 8
- Bill 26
- Bill 29
- Bill 30
- Bill 31
- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 34

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker's Statement

Speaker: Thank you. Members, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some clarity for Nunavummiut on the current government-wide system outage. To reiterate, this was not a hack. No one targeted the Government of Nunavut. I know there is a lot of uncertainty around the territory on what this outage means.

I have spoken with the Premier and his cabinet colleagues about this situation, and I can say that staff have been working non-stop to resolve this issue and minimize any impacts to the delivery of their programs and services.

To summarize what I have heard, there is no concern with the loss of personal information or a privacy breach. There are no disruptions to health care delivery, schools, corrections services, and income support payments. Those

essential services will still carry on and deemed highest priority.

If you are going to your local health centre, please bring your health card and any medications you take, as the electronic system is down. This will help facilitate your visit.

Schools are without Internet, but classes will continue as usual.

Income support recipients will receive food vouchers instead of cheques for the time being. Clients are asked to call or visit their community income support office for more information.

Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students November payments have been made and the issues should be resolved well before December's scheduled payments.

There may be delays with some services as the system is being rebuilt and employees get back online and gain access to electronic files.

Government of Nunavut staff are in the office and hard at work. I am certain they all appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please visit the Government of Nunavut's Facebook page for your regular updates, and messaging will be available through your local government liaison officers and on community radio.

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 5, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 16:53

