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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister of
Human Resources*

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for the Utility Rates
Review Council*

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Health;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
*Government House Leader; Minister of
Family Services; Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasiq
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

*Minister responsible for Nunavut
Arctic College; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Cathy Towtongie
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Charlie Audlakiak

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, March 11, 2020****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, 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, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towntongie.

>>House commenced at 13:31

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa) (interpretation): Mr. Qirngnuq, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 418 – 5(2):
Municipal Green Infrastructure
Fund**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Rankin Inlet. It is my nephew Ijiraq's birthday today, so I wish him a happy birthday.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on April 1 my Department of Community and Government Services will launch

the Municipal Green Energy Funding Program. The objective of this program is to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and decrease carbon emissions. As such, the program supports Nunavut's commitments within the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change.

The Municipal Green Energy Fund will provide \$1 million per year over each of the next three years toward "green" initiatives identified by municipalities. The fund will be accessible to all municipal governments on an application basis. Under the terms of the program, municipalities may submit proposals for up to \$500,000 to support "green" energy projects in their communities. This could include projects such as energy-efficient lighting, solar panels, or planning related to climate change and adaptation and the impacts on the municipality.

The fund will be administered by Community and Government Services in cooperation with the Climate Change Secretariat. An application package and proposal guidelines will be distributed to municipalities in the next few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, the Municipal Green Energy Fund has been modelled after the highly successful Gas Tax Small Projects Fund and will provide municipalities with additional resources to improve energy efficiency of municipally-owned infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance municipal capacity to respond to climate change.

I encourage all members to support the municipal governments in addressing these critical issues and work together

toward a greener, more energy efficient future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 419 – 5(2):
Transportation Infrastructure
Projects**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues know, we have a transportation infrastructure deficit in Nunavut. At the same time we are making real progress in addressing that deficit, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some examples of that progress.

The marine infrastructure projects in Pond Inlet and Iqaluit are proceeding well, and both should be largely complete by the end of the 2020 construction season.

At the fall sitting I updated my colleagues on the National Trades Corridor funding for the Kivalliq intercommunity road study and the Rankin Inlet Airport expansion project. I am pleased to inform my colleagues that the design for the Rankin Inlet project and for the terminal building projects in Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, Kugluktuk, Whale Cove, and Kimmirut will all be tendered by spring.

>>Applause

The Clyde River runway rehabilitation

project is nearing completion, and work on the Sanirajak rehabilitation and airfield lighting project will commence this year.

>>Applause

Both projects are fully funded under the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program, and the department will be submitting additional ACAP proposals in the coming weeks for projects in Whale Cove, Pangnirtung, and Kugluktuk.

The department's marine scoping studies project is well underway, and the consultant will have visited 18 communities by the end of June. The department is also working with hamlets and CGS' Petroleum Products and Procurement and Logistics divisions to prepare and submit proposals to Transport Canada's second call for proposals to the Oceans Protection Plan's second call for proposals.

Mr. Speaker, through continued federal support and by working together, we are building the infrastructure needed to support Nunavut's transportation system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 420 – 5(2): New
Arctic Bay Power Plant Approval**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut

and my colleagues and members in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment to delivering safe, reliable and affordable energy to Nunavummiut is recognized through the corporation's power plant replacement program. By prioritizing the reconstruction of infrastructure that has exceeded its life span, the Qulliq Energy Corporation purposefully puts the energy needs of its customers at the forefront.

Last week I had the honour of approving Arctic Bay's new power plant project. After consultation with the territory's Utility Rates Review Council, it was agreed upon that the Qulliq Energy Corporation will take extra measures to ensure that customers will face minimal financial impact as a result of this project.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation has taken extra steps and applied for federal government funding through the Arctic Energy Fund to help cover power plant construction costs. Recent federal contributions through this funding stream will ultimately save money for Qulliq Energy Corporation customers by having the majority of power plant project costs paid for by the Government of Canada.

I am confident that the corporation can lead major projects while responsibly managing revenue from customers and prioritizing value for their money. The new power plant will bring energy-efficient equipment to the community, along with the possibility of renewable technology integration, to further reduce Arctic Bay's diesel consumption. This, paired with potential federal

contributions, provides the Qulliq Energy Corporation a strong foundation in delivering long-term clean energy solutions that benefit the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Hickes.

Minister's Statement 421 – 5(2): WSCC 2020 Corporate Plan

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to the Assembly's attention that the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2020 Corporate Plan is now available on their website.

Openness is one of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's values and as an organization, they strive to be clear and transparent in everything they do. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Corporate Plan outlines the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's priorities for the next 12 months, the pathway forward, and the organization's 2020 operations and capital budgets. I invite all members of the Assembly and the public to visit the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's website at wsc.c.nu.ca to learn more about the exciting work they are undertaking this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Education, Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 422 – 5(2):
Northern Zones Programs and
Kits**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my
colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that
all Nunavut schools have been provided
with Northern Zones programs and
resource kits. Northern Zones is a
program that supports elementary and
middle school students managing and
controlling their emotions.

The Department of Education adapted
this program from Zones of Regulation
to meet the specific needs of Nunavut
youth, with input from an Ilinniarvimmi
Inuusilirijiit Advisory Committee.
Northern Zones is designed to be
delivered in small groups and is
translated into all official languages.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my
department is committed to increasing
student resiliency and well-being.
Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit are important
members of school teams in this work,
providing support and guidance to
students in their social-emotional
learning. The department has provided
training to *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit* on
the content of Northern Zones as well as
how to use it in classrooms, small
groups, or one-on-one meetings. This
will enable them to tailor this program
for their school's specific needs.

In December 2019 the use of Northern
Zones was expanded to include student
support teachers, who were provided
with a second copy of the program and

resource kit.

Mr. Speaker, by developing Nunavut-
specific social-emotional learning
resources and offering ongoing support
and training to school staff, we continue
to better prepare students for their future.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Ministers' Statements. (interpretation
ends) Premier Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 423 – 5(2): 2019
Arctic Inspiration Prize**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people
of Arviat, I say "good day" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last
month I had the honour of being one of
the presenters for the \$1 million 2019
Arctic Inspiration Prize to Northern
Compass, an organization whose work,
vision, and passion to help northern
students transition from high school to
post-secondary is motivating to so many.

As my colleagues are aware, the Arctic
Inspiration Prize is awarded annually to
organizations who have made a
substantial contribution gathering of
arctic knowledge and who have provided
a concrete plan and commitment to
implement their knowledge into real
world application to benefit the
Canadian Arctic and our people. Up to
10 prizes, totalling up to \$3 million, are
handed out every year.

Mr. Speaker, I'm thrilled that the
Kamajit Program, the Nunavut Law
Program, the Trades of Tradition team,

and the Baffin Youth Outdoor Education Project were also recognized for their important contributions as well. In total five Nunavut-based teams won out of the eight prizes awarded this year.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is a proud prize partner of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, and we currently provide \$50,000 annually in funding. I think we can all agree this financial support is worthwhile for our territory and communities.

Mr. Speaker, all these initiatives are improving the quality of life of Nunavummiut, and I look forward to seeing them thrive and expand even further with their generous prizes.

I ask my fellow members to please join me in congratulating all the recipients of the 2019 Arctic Inspiration Prize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Let's proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 639 – 5(2): Contract for Constructing Igloolik School

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Amittuq.

I rise today to talk about the contractors who provide services in our communities like construction crews and so on. In my riding, one of our

communities has been expecting the new school to open on January 1 but due to not being constructed properly it has been delayed once again.

Mr. Speaker, if we're going to award contracts they indicate how many employees they will have. But they just send very few for example the plumbers, the carpenters and electricians are available in the communities themselves they don't necessarily have to be imported from the south. But since they don't have a Red Seal they are not hired and they end up importing southerners.

One thing I don't like is the government's speeding up the process in order to have a project completed earlier. That school was expedited and now it's been delayed for approximately a year and the high school students are not going to school. The elementary school is overcrowded. Jobs are hard to come by in the smaller communities. I will be asking questions about contracting at the appropriate time and I will be directing my questions to the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 640 – 5(2): Recognition of Attima Hadlari

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues. Good afternoon, Uqhuqtuurmiut.

I stand today to recognize a person who has been involved in the early '60s when Northwest Territories started regional Inuit games in Inuvik. The people of

Kitikmeot were invited to take part. Since it started, this person has been involved in the Arctic Winter Games when it started in 1970. The regional games and community games, as an athlete and as a coach as well as a judge, for the past number of Arctic Winter Games he has been the head official for Arctic Sports a number of times.

Mr. Speaker, he has travelled to Greenland about six times to take part in training on how to be a coach and as an official and teaching on the technical aspects of the games such as teaching about how to train for the body's flexibility and about the spirit of the games being about how to improve yourself as an athlete and how to help other people improve themselves as an athlete in each game.

This person I am recognizing today is our Inuinnaqtun translator who usually sits behind the ministers, Mr. Attima Hadlari. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 641 – 5(2):
COVID-19 Preparedness**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the coronavirus that has become pandemic. It seems to be a hot topic and it's called COVID-19. Not to bewilder my constituents, I would like them to remain calm, but we can't just wait here and not be prepared.

The media has been having ongoing

discussions about COVID-19, but I would like to advise the people of Nunavut to know that not all information that you read on the internet is true. They are not all true. The information you read from the federal government and Nunavut government are true. I read through all the information that was made available on the internet and in the media.

Mr. Speaker, COVID-19 should not be something that only the Department of Health should be working on. The Department of Education should also be prepared and the Minister of Mines, social services, Family Services, all government departments.

We also have to think about the people who are incarcerated, should one of them get the virus it could spread very rapidly. For ourselves, we are not a government but we do have to wash our hands regularly. If you should get flu or if you have chest pains, do not go to public places and you should talk to the doctors and nurses. I want us to be fully prepared. I will be asking questions to the minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 642 – 5(2): Dog
Slaughter and Relocation
Compensation**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not have any comments or any statement to make but thank you for recognizing me. Now I

suddenly have an opportunity.

I received a letter recently about the dog slaughter and this letter was from an elder who wanted our support. Just this past year the Prime Minister made an apology to the Inuit but the monies that were given was not for the ones who were personally affected by the dog slaughter. If you want to get compensated, I am told that you have to hire a lawyer and get the process going. Talking about the elders who are waiting to be compensated for their dogs getting slaughtered, if you are going to try and get compensated you will have to hire your own lawyer.

If a lawyer is listening out there who wants to represent the elders, I would like to be informed because I want to help my elders get compensated. I was not affected, I did not lose any dogs, but my father did. If there is a lawyer available please get in contact with me and I will make sure I'll help those elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Member's Statement 643 – 5(2):
Happy Birthday to Family
Members**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my brother Charlie, who is 63 today, happy birthday. He is also known as Papatsi. Those in Cambridge Bay, if you see him, please wish him happy birthday and give him a hug for me.

I would also like to wish my granddaughter, Bridgette, who would be turning five this weekend, a happy birthday. Happy birthday my baby, Nana will be home soon. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 644 – 5(2):
Northern Compass**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn't put my hand up high enough.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Northern Compass project, which was announced last month in February in Ottawa, on receiving a \$1 million Arctic Inspiration Prize, laureates for 2019.

Northern Compass aims to provide northern youth with tailored support and tools which will allow them to overcome barriers they face when transitioning from high school to post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, the vision of Northern Compass is to dramatically increase achievement among young northerners pursuing their education and career goals after high school, enabling them to become full participants in their communities and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a young lad participating in such programs as

Northern Youth Abroad, which fosters education through work and travel, it had a tremendous, positive effect on me and at least 30 of my constituents who have participated in Northern Youth Abroad to date.

Mr. Speaker, Northern Compass will work with Northern Youth Abroad along the same lines of fostering that same ethic of education through work and travel. At this time I would like to wish and congratulate all of the other Artic Inspiration Prize recipients in the different categories as well as all the nominees that were nominated. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate and I ask you to join me in congratulating the project team of Northern Compass, including Karen Aglukark, Rebecca Bisson, Lois Philipp, Jim Snider, and the entire project team behind them, along with all the partners and individuals that supported the Northern Compass nomination and receiving this prestigious award.

I have no doubt that Northern Compass and Northern Youth Abroad will help navigate a bright future for Nunavummiut and northern youth in futures ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. It looks like I finally have no more names on my list. Let's proceed. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Hickes.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give a warm welcome to a first-time visitor to Nunavut and this legislature, Mr. Tallal Tabish. With little help from the blizzard we had last weekend, one of the first things he learned in coming to Nunavut was that storm chips are a real thing.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, Tallal is here from Toronto to visit his big brother, a constituent of mine, Tallal Tabish, who many of you may know as he is a very active member of this community, and I understand that Tallal recently got engaged to his girlfriend Deepa. I invite all members to join me in welcoming Tallal to the House today and to wish him and Deepa our best wishes on their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to our House and welcome to Nunavut. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Good afternoon. I want to recognize someone in the gallery, Rosetina Alivaktuk is here. I want you to welcome her. She works at my constituency office and she is here this week. Let's give her a big smile and a warm welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will continue. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 898 – 5(2): Government Contracts**

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask a question about contracting and requests for proposals. My first question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. It's about updating the policy that you have to create employment and for jobs as Inuit have jobs now, but what kind of plans do you have to bring forward to the future to ensure that contracting is to allow more Inuit in the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not too clear, but I will try to respond.

Whenever there is infrastructure that is going to be built, let's say, a school through Health or a building through Health or Education, we work with the department as to what is required and what's going to be required for the building and help create the plans. When it's going to be the community identified for example in the community that was posed, there's a question in his community, those individuals that were involved in employment prior and we look at how many can possibly be employed that are Inuit.

Let's say when there's going to be a school put up and so they not just be labourers but also incorporate some time type of on-the-job training so that we know what the minimum requirement is

for Inuit that is going to be part of the contract. We're looking, we see like whether it's 10 percent, 30 percent or 40 percent. We work that in the contract and it is part of the plan when there is infrastructure being put up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it's the case that was identified, let's say our building the school and last fall there was going to be a school that was going to open but then there was a delay and January 1 was going to be the target date to open, when that's the case the contractors the date that's chosen to have a finish date, do you continue to add more to their on top of their contract and how does this process work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the question. I believe you asked about the Igloolik school.

When the contractors complete the building and when they say it's ready, we have staff to go and review and an inspector to ensure that we have it completed according to the agreement and whether it is actually finalized and ready to be put in use. When we review it, we have to ensure that...like last year, we were not happy about the safety aspects and that is why there was a delay in the opening. Prior to the contract releasing it to us, we have to ensure that they followed everything accordingly under the contract. They cannot release

it to us until we ensure that everything we had asked for... They have to be the ones to make the changes so that we do not have to pay if they did not follow what we had with the plans. So that is how it works, we will not take it and call it completed until we are happy with the results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is often a rush to complete the infrastructure that is being put up. Community Government and Services, in your department, when you create that opportunity and when a contract is agreed to and FNCQ, when they are going to be reaching their final date, do you also charge them any late fees? (interpretation ends) Is there a penalty when they do not reach their finishing date? What is the policy on that, if they do not requirement date? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We pay that contract as agreed to. We do not identify to the contractor that "You are going to have to rush to get this job done," but there is a timeline so if it goes beyond we still do not pay beyond the timeline that was agreed to. The contractor tends to use their own funds if they are beyond the timeline that was agreed to, so often they do not want to go beyond that because it is going to come out of their pockets and so that does not happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 899 – 5(2): Residential Care Services

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day and good day to my colleagues this afternoon.

I will be asking a question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Illagiitugut Group Home in Iqaluit was originally a home for youth with disabilities from across the territory from Nunavut. It was a place for them to go and for some reason it was decided to change the target population of the home and the children who live there were sent outside of Nunavut.

My first question is: can the minister provide an update on how many of these youth were brought back to Nunavut and how many of them are still in the south? That is my first question as to how many are in the south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. My apologies. I'm going to get to that page and the question about the group home and the Apex shelter. It's not in Apex, but it's in Iqaluit and I know there are four young women who are in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) A couple of weeks ago, on February 26, the minister sent a letter to the Standing Committee on Social Wellness providing additional information on residential care homes in the territory which indicates that there are currently only three residents at the Illagiitugut Group Home in Iqaluit even though it has capacity of eight.

My original question was how many youth are outside the territory, but to add to that, can the minister clarify why the group home is currently so underutilized when so many youth are sent to southern residential care facilities?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The reason why if the youth are shipped out of the territory is it is the kind of service that they require. The group is a certain level and we can accommodate for the intent of that group home in Iqaluit.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Illagiitugut Group Home provides a good opportunity to keep youth in Nunavut while receiving the care they

need. According to the information provided by the minister, the contract for running this home is just over \$2 million. I understand that she states only specific and special care needs are put in the facility, but will the minister commit to providing or reviewing the type of care currently provided at the group home so that more children and youth who require residential care can remain in Nunavut instead of being sent south, far away from their families and culture?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I can say when the directors were having a retreat here, we certainly had discussion on what facilities do we have and if there are any underutilized. That's being reviewed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 900 – 5(2): Fire Truck/Hall Replacement for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is very much aware, effective fire prevention and response is very important for our communities, and

a key component of this preparation is having adequate space in which to safeguard key assets, such as fire trucks.

As the minister is aware, Sanikiluaq's current fire hall is too old and too small for the community. It is no longer possible to heat the building properly, which poses a risk to the equipment inside.

Can the minister confirm when Sanikiluaq is scheduled to receive a new fire hall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot confirm a date for when Sanikiluaq's fire hall would be replaced, Mr. Speaker. We would be working with the municipality through their integrated community sustainability plans and when we take a look at Sanikiluaq's their priority for a fire hall is 36th on the list, so we would work with the municipality to see if they wanted to bump that up, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there are a lot of priorities for my community, for my municipality, and a fire truck is one of them, even though it's further down the list.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the minister's department has a budget for "building, equipment upgrades and

minor projects." Can the minister confirm if municipalities can apply for funding from this budget to undertake stopgap repairs and upgrades to their existing fire halls? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The timing of discussions on a fire hall is pretty appropriate today. I wear my pin to remember the fallen firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, we do have funding in our minor capital funding that would cover just that and I would be more than happy to have our department meet with the municipality to help through the process, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his positive response to my question. Mr. Speaker, on another positive side, information submitted by the department in 2018 indicates that it provides a new fire truck to two communities per year. Can the minister confirm that Sanikiluaq is still scheduled to receive its new fire truck during the 2022 calendar year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very worthwhile project, Mr. Speaker. Fire departments in every community work tirelessly so we

don't need to respond in emergencies. They're very brave souls.

We are on track for that and I looked at the date for Sanikiluaq's fire truck replacement and it's on schedule for 2022, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 901 – 5(2): Language Administration Costs

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I say “good day” to the residents of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet. If my husband is listening, I wish you a good day.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Languages.

Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues have noted that our government still operates mainly in the English language despite its commitment to making Inuktitut the working language of government.

Can the minister clarify how the Government of Nunavut monitors the costs of providing Inuktitut language administration across government departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member from Rankin Inlet and

Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, ever since the creation of Nunavut, there are three official languages, but also the federal government, as Canadians, they recognize two languages in the country, English and French. With that, we have an agreement with the federal government on languages, French and Inuktitut. That's what the funding is for and we have used this agreement for many years. The four-year agreement was \$30 million, \$15.8 million for the Inuktitut language and \$14.25 million for French. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It seems that our government spends significantly more on English language administration than it does on Inuktitut language administration throughout all government departments. This could also be the case with French language administration even though less than 5 percent of Nunavut's population speaks French.

The federal Canada-Nunavut General Agreement, which the minister referred to, on the Promotion of French and Inuit Language is over \$9 million a year. I believe that's the cost. Can the minister clarify how much of that funding is dedicated to the Inuktitut Language and how much is dedicated to the French language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her

question. Mr. Speaker, we have continued to advocate and we've had a strong partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in trying to get our language obligations and meeting those obligations under our current official languages and *Inuit Language Protection Act* and having that recognition at the federal level.

As to the question regarding the breakdown between French and Inuktitut spending, if I break it down by fiscal years, 2016-17, Inuktitut spending was \$1,500,000; 2017-18 was \$4.1 million; 2018-19 was \$5.1 million; and 2019-2020 another \$5.1 million; whereas spending for those same years was \$1.91 million for the 2016-17 year, 2017-18, \$3,672,000; 2018-19, \$4,185,000; and 2019-2020 is \$4,483,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the distribution of languages spoken across Nunavut, it appears that a significantly greater amount is spent per capita on French language administration and services than on Inuktitut language administration and services.

Given the recent passage of Bill C-91, the *Indigenous Languages Act*, the federal government has signalled its intent to better support and strengthen indigenous languages in Canada.

Will the minister commit to negotiating a more appropriate distribution of funding for Inuktitut when he finalizes a new Canada-Nunavut Agreement on the

Promotion of French and Inuit Language with his federal counterparts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. On the *Indigenous Languages Act*, we have earmarked through the federal Canadian Heritage department \$42 million in language funding specifically to train language specialists and Inuit educators. This is an area that we're trying to get more attention around spending and investing in this area.

As for renewing the Canada-Nunavut language agreement, it is very close to ending the four year contract and we have been given the indication that we will be extending for possibly one-year extension with this same levels of funding, most likely, and this would likely be for the short term. Perhaps a one-year extension while we renegotiate for a longer term multi-year language agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 902 – 5(2): COVID-19 Preparedness

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health.

With COVID-19, what should we do personally? It is obvious, looking at the government, to wash our hands frequently. When we cough, cough here and do not touch our faces and our nose

with our hands. When you cough, use a Kleenex. If we catch a cold, do not go to public places. Use hand sanitizers. If you get a fever and you cough and if you get a breathing problem... . The one for the public should be used. What have the government and the Department of Health done? Colds within the government, who do they work with within the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member going over some of the mitigation measures that anyone can take to make sure that you practise your safe hygiene practices.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot even count how many calls there have been with officials all across the country, chief medical officers, chief public health officers, different officials with the Department of Health at all different levels and including inter-governmentally here where all deputy ministers are meeting to make sure that their emergency planning and any strategies to combat for one the COVID-19 coming to Nunavut and then, if and when it does come here, on measures with all the health centres to make sure that we can cover all the concern that is out there.

I do recognize that with the massive media coverage on this issue, it is front and centre of everything and I do want to continue to assure everyone out there that we are still a very low risk in Nunavut. We want to make sure that people do self-monitor and self-isolate if they feel any symptoms, and to contact the health centre to arrange for any

testing if they get some of the symptoms that the member talked about, such as fever, uncontrollable coughing, and I just want to make sure that all members of the public are basically aware that we are on top of this, Mr. Speaker. We are very concerned, but we also have to make sure that it does not get overblown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. We do not want any panic out there and we hear in the news, reporters talk about it as if they are in a panic. Maybe especially the ones outside of Canada are scaring people. We do not want people to panic, but we want everyone in Nunavut to be all aware of what they should do.

(interpretation ends) The minister mentioned that if symptoms are noticed for individuals to contact the health centre and I noticed that the same language was in a news release from today from the Department of Health. In the event that individuals have symptoms, are they to contact the health centre by phone before bringing themselves into the health centre? Is that the recommended protocol?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that would be the preferred method of contacting the health centre, especially if you have been in any of the high-risk areas of the world where the COVID-19 has been

identified as an issue. We want to make sure that people, if you have come from one of the countries or one of the areas where COVID-19 has been more of an issue, initially self-isolate right away, contact your health centre, and we can arrange for testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Not everybody who has a fever, who has a cough, has COVID-19. That's why my understanding is that's why there are tests that can be done to confirm the presence of the virus. Can the minister update the House on what procedures are in place for testing, and can you share any additional information on tests that have been done to date within Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been very active in this file. We have had some tests done. There have been no positive results that have come back yet. Basically what would happen like most lab tests, although these are a little bit more higher secured, different insulation for shipping purposes to make sure that it's more secure and it does get sent to a lab that's in Winnipeg that most jurisdictions are utilizing. It's one of the few labs in the country that is set up for these isolation protocols to make sure that the people doing the tests aren't exposed in case of the positive sample. In general, from what we are seeing, it's approximately

about a four-day turnaround to get the results of those tests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 903 – 5(2): Introducing a Clare's Law for Nunavut

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice. It's now been three weeks since I raised the idea of introducing Claire's Law for Nunavut.

As I noted at that time the number of Canadian jurisdictions have recently introduced their own version of Claire's Law which is a model statute that seeks to reduce the risk of domestic violence by establishing a mechanism by which law enforcement authorities can proactively disclose information to a person at risk concerning their partner's domestic violence history.

As the minister will recall, I also tabled copies in the Legislative Assembly of all of Claire's Laws that have been passed to date in Canada. We all supported a motion recently for a violence free Nunavut. It's time to act. It's time to take proactive measures.

Now that the minister has had an opportunity to consider this issue in detail, will the minister commit to introducing a Claire's Law for Nunavut before this Assembly dissolves in the fall of next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. As you stated earlier, you had brought this issue up into the House this sitting. We have received all of the documentation that you tabled and the Department of Justice staff are reviewing the information too and doing research and conducting the research with other jurisdictions to see if Nunavut would actually introduce Clare's Law into legislation.

At this time I can't commit to saying whether or not this will be done by the end of this Fifth Assembly, but I can assure you that the staff are looking into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I'm glad to know that the Department of Justice is reviewing and researching this topic with care.

As the minister will recall, I also raised the idea of including in the scope of Nunavut's version of Clare's Law provisions to allow for law enforcement authorities to also proactively disclose information concerning individuals who have a history of committing sexual offences against children. To date, has the minister instructed her department to also include this topic in their research? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. As you asked in the early sitting of this Assembly, this sitting you had asked for those two items to be looked at by the Department of Justice and I stated yes, we are looking at Clare's Law. We're also looking at the other questions that the member asked for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, a number of other Canadian jurisdictions have now introduced their own versions of Clare's Law. As the minister had indicated, her department has had some discussions with these other jurisdictions. Can the minister describe what discussion have taken place with her counterparts on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, the Department of Justice staff is reviewing and researching the information. Once the final draft of the document is handed to me as Minister of Justice, I will be contacting my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 904 – 5(2): Revenue from Liquor and Cannabis

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut.

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

Mr. Speaker, the government's budget documents clearly show that the sale of liquor and cannabis products across the territory generates significant income.

Can the minister clearly explain how the revenue from liquor sales and cannabis mark-ups is allocated to pay for government programs and services?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, the revenue that is garnered through the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission is allocated to the operations of the commission itself and that any surplus goes into general revenue, which does provide to government services and programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. While I recognize a portion of the liquor revenues do go towards social responsibility campaigns, I have addressed the need for more on-the-land programs and other healing programs in

my community. It seems obvious to me that the revenues from alcohol sales should also be allocated directly addressing the problems associated with alcohol addictions and abuse.

Can the minister clearly explain why the government does not directly allocate the revenue from alcohol sales to provide more of the desperately needed services to deal with alcohol abuse and addictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question again. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the revenue, it's unpredictable. We've only had a couple of years in of actually having the beer and wine store and then the expense of establishing a beer and wine store in Rankin Inlet and in the future Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, those revenues do go in to provide programs for addictions and trauma. In addition, as an example, through the Quality of Life Division that we have, we have nearly \$4 million available of funding for proposals for just such projects as the member mentioned. Those monies are used for purposes as the member brings up. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as science has shown that there is a strong link between cigarette smoking and specific health conditions, it is well known that the consumption of alcohol can lead to a number of health and mental issues. In Nunavut our

government makes money from the sale of cigarettes and alcohol, yet the money is not directly allocated to addressing the health and mental problems that result from the use of these addictive substances.

Will the minister commit to working with his cabinet colleagues to reconsider the government's position with respect to the allocation of revenues from the sale of alcohol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe let's take step back for a moment. Mr. Speaker, the programs that we do put forward far exceed the amount of revenue that we get through the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission. Mr. Speaker, there are more funds allocated to the programming that the member brings up than what the revenue is, so those monies are being utilized for that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 905 – 5(2): Nunavut Development Corporation Activities

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the best cure for poverty is a job, and I agree with that statement.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I have raised the issue of developing a commercial test fishery for Gjoa Haven, which has the potential to create much-needed employment for the community.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, section 3 of the *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* provides that one of the objectives of the corporation is to “create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities.”

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Development Corporation's 2018-19 annual report indicates that one of its “venture equity investments” is with the Arctic Fisheries Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, responsibility for the government's Fisheries and Sealing Division is in the process of being transferred to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Can the minister indicate how the Nunavut Development Corporation will be working with his department to support the development of commercial test fisheries in Nunavut communities, including Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot agree more that we need more jobs, especially in our communities. With the transfer of the Fisheries and Sealing Division and also our very close that I was raising too with the Nunavut Development Corporation

and our business credit corporation. With those three and an alignment of all these, it gives our department and our subsidiaries an opportunity to work very closely and I'm looking forward to working very closely with all of this and see how we can create more jobs in the territory in sectors, especially in the fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "thank you" to the minister for recognizing that we do need jobs in the smaller communities as well.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation to the Nunavut Development Corporation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 12, 2019. It states that one of the goals for the corporation is to "seek new investments...with an emphasis on local harvesting and tourism sectors."

As the minister is aware, the legacy of the Franklin Expedition and the discovery of its lost ships is creating opportunities for the community of Gjoa Haven to benefit from activities and visits associated with the discovery. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate how the corporation will be working with his department's Tourism Division to develop opportunities in relation to the Franklin Expedition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quick change from one to another leads me to scramble looking for

the answers here.

On the tourism side there has been a lot of good work that has taken place and is starting to get our strategy, not just a strategy but we have been working and especially with the community of Gjoa Haven in terms of tourism training. Those trainings are critical to our communities and something that I'm going to continue to advocate under our department when it comes to tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what new goals and priorities he will be providing to the Nunavut Development Corporation in his 2020-21 Letter of Expectation to the chairperson of the corporation's board of directors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have what our expectations will be for 2020-21, but it's something that I'm definitely going to have a very close look. I think now is a very good opportunity and I thank the member for questioning me related to his community and related to the sectors. I think that's going to allow us to have a bigger role and a bigger focus.

I think, in my appearance at the Committee of the Whole, I did mention that between the three entities, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Nunavut Development Corporation, and our department, it allows us to be more

strategic for each of our roles and I think that is a very good opportunity. I thank the member for continued interest in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 906 – 5(2): School Busing in Cold Weather

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Netsilik, and my colleagues.

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

Mr. Speaker, children today and those who were children 50 years ago are from different worlds.

The children of the 1950 and the 1960 are used to living in a colder climate, and they dress warmly. Today's children are living in a less harsh climate, even though the temperature may drop below -50 degrees Celsius and they are told to stay home from school, which we can understand.

My colleague keeps bringing it up too. I noted with interest my colleague's questions regarding the government's office closure policy in case of bad weather.

Can the minister clarify what the school closure policies are with respect to schools closing and children being told to stay home due to bad weather? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Netsilik. Mr. Speaker, the district of education authorities are the ones that decide when the school is going to be closed to the public, and they have to advertise or let the public know about the intended closure because of the extreme weather, at -50 degrees Celsius or colder. That is one of the policies, but there are other factors, for example, if the weather is 60 miles an hour or over, if there is a blizzard and you cannot see very far, and if they cannot go use the roads. I am just identifying some of the factors that shut-down a school, but it is the responsibility of the district education authorities, and they operate independently when it comes to school closures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. My supplementary question is, when it comes to going to school, some students may require a ride to the school when it is open. Some take the bus, or are given a ride.

Can the minister clarify how communities currently have school buses that are operational, especially during the cold weather season? And how many communities do not have a school bus service during the cold season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member. Almost all communities have school buses. I'm looking for the categories. Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, I believe are the only communities that do not have a school bus. All the other communities have bus services. The buses are continually maintained. Of course there may be times where a bus may not be running, but the district education authorities notify us if there is a requirement to maintain the buses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for responding to my question. In my constituency community of Taloyoak the school buses are not operating due to a lack of drivers. Students in the coldest months...December, January, February and March are the coldest months of the year. The students, some of them under the age of 10, have to walk some distance to the school even during the harsh winter months.

Can the minister confirm that his department has a plan or some initiative to hire drivers for the school buses that are needed in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member. With the bus drivers,

they are required to have a driver's licence class 3 and from what I hear from the district education authorities, if there are no class 3 drivers, they can make a request to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for them to provide class 3 driver training in any community, so that class 3 drivers can be made available.

The district education authorities and if it's of importance you could personally talk to us as the Department of Education or the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

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

Question 907 – 5(2): Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre Replacement

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start my question, I just want to quickly say "happy birthday" to my daughter and wish her a happy birthday.

>> *Applause*

I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As we are aware, in our community of Qikiqtarjuaq we have one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut. It's probably the oldest facility. It has been in the plans for a long time. During our fall sitting it was indicated that the design of the health centre was supposed to be completed by March of last year. What is the status today of the health centre we

have been requesting for the community for a long time? Has the design been completed or what is the current plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to how the planning has been done for the health centre for Qikiqtarjuaq, I don't have that information at this time. I'll look into the matter with the Department of Health and provide an update to the member at that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please note, members, that the time for question period has expired and we will now proceed to Item 7. Item 7. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. (interpretation) Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member Keyootak is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Keyootak.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the members.

I rarely get to recognize visitors in the gallery as not many people come from

our community. At this time I would like to recognize a fellow resident of my community who is in the gallery, Timiusie Kooneeliusie, who is from Qikiqtarjuaq. I would like to extend a warm welcome to him.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Always feel welcome in the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Let's proceed. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 024 – 5(2): Bill 43, An Act to Amend the Cannabis Act Respecting Consultation Periods

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Cannabis Act Respecting Consultation Periods*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation, and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 43 immediately moved into Committee of

the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to immediately refer Bill 43 to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? (interpretation) There are no nays. Bill 43 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Let's proceed. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to Item 5, if it's okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Member Qirngnuq is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? Mr. Qirngnuq.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife and her name is Katherina Qirngnuq. On January 3, I have been with her for (interpretation ends) half a century.

>>Applause

(interpretation) It has been great and we now have over 30 grandchildren and

over 15 great-grandchildren. I am very happy, I appreciate and love Katherina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Thank you for visiting here. Thank you.

Let's go back to Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 39, 40, 41, 42, *ammalu* 43 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) with Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 62 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:38

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We

wish to continue with the review of Bill 39 and the 2020-21 Main Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by Nunavut Arctic College. If time permits, we would commence the review of Bill 40 and the supplementary appropriation details. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 39?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree for the witnesses to go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Netser, if you could please reintroduce your witnesses. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy, President of the Housing Corporation Terry Audla, and to my left

is Vice-president and Chief Financial Officer Ji Liu. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. When we left off yesterday we were with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and we finished off Headquarters and we were moving on to Debt Repayment. The name I had on the list for questions in this area was Mr. Main. Mr. Main, please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There's \$11.7 million budgeted for this year for debt repayment and it has to do with the long-term loans with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I wonder if the committee could get a brief explanation of what the arrangements are between the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official to my left, Ji Liu, can respond to that question. He will explain the funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Liu, please go ahead.

Mr. Liu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The arrangement is between the CMHC and us starting from 2009 with the time scheduled all the way to 2037-38. The funding itself includes two portions, one is the capital portion and one is the O&M portion. Basically how it works is

that the CMHC will fund us for that. In this case it would \$17 million and we will pay it back to the CMHC. On top of it, we still get the O&M portion for an extra \$10 million as well. The \$10 million is going to be used for the maintenance of the housing pool. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At the top of the page here it says that the charges relate to the repayment of principal and interest. What's the approximate breakdown of this year's payment between principal and interest, the \$11.7 million? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, again, Ji Liu has the figures. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The detailed breakdown, I'll have to come back later with the details, but generally speaking, in a quick way, the interest rate as set up back in 2009 and it's cumulative and the majority is based on, I would say, the principal is going down quickly right now, so that's why we have a time schedule and the houses are already in our inventory. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any other names on this page, so we will move on to page O-IV-4. District

Offices. Are there any questions on this page? If not...oh, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was waiting to put my hand up. I wasn't sure if one of my colleagues wanted to go first.

When it comes to the district offices, they do a lot of administrative work within the housing corporation. When it comes to the ransomware attack, what was the effect on the district offices? It's my understanding they're not on the GN network; it's their own network. How were they affected? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was minimal for the corporation because we have our own server system and historically it has been that way, so we didn't really get affected from it, the ransomware. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So were there any additional costs the district offices, or I guess to the housing corporate at large with the ransomware attack? Were there any functions such as accounts payable affected? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you. It was business as usual, but there was a little bit of delay in terms of our contractors getting paid for the work that they did for the corporation. I understand it has all been taken care of. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So was there any additional cost to the housing corporation as a result of ransomware: equipment, contracts? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It cost the corporation about \$200,000 in equipment plus overtime for our employees. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So \$200,000 plus overtime.

In terms of tying in with the GN networks, do housing corporation offices at your district office level tie into a GN shared drive? I believe it is called a Y: drive system. If so, how were they affected in that way in terms of doing their jobs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: No, it did not really affect our operation. It was business as usual, as we said earlier.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the one hand the minister is saying it was business as usual; on the other hand \$200,000 in costs was incurred. I am just trying to understand. Either there were some impacts and they have been dealt with now or there were no impacts. If there were no impacts, I am curious as to what the \$200,000 figure is for. Maybe if we just get clarification on it. I understand we are looking at the next fiscal year, but I am trying to understand how well prepared the housing corporation is for future events. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The costs were with overtime included and it was for software upgrading of our Internet system. Mr. Audla would like elaborate a little bit more on that, if you would allow him to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to add to what the minister had said. The \$200,000 includes overtime. It is not \$200,000 plus, and the minister is correct in saying that we needed to do some software upgrades for some of our tracking systems, for

contractual arrangements, ECAP and another financial software.

As it stands, the districts have been able to access the Y: drives, where a lot of our historical documents are. In that sense they have been brought up back up, have been mirrored successfully. Overall it has been a very minimal impact to the housing corporation and the districts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Audla. (interpretation ends) I'm glad he mentioned the financial side of things because I had a question. To what extent is the housing corporation's financial system tied into the GN's FreeBalance system? Are they completely separate? Is it the same? I really don't know and I'm curious. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our chief financial officer is knowledgeable on that, so he would like to respond to the question, if you will allow. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our FreeBalance is the same as the GN but a different version. We're separate from the GN system but it's from the same company, the same software. The only thing that we're different from the GN is that we are one version older than the

GN's current one. Actually, we have already contracted the services to do an upgrade and it's actually a work in progress right now. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm going to move to a different topic now and that's the independent review that the minister announced in the House I think it was a couple of weeks ago, an independent review of housing programs and practices.

The minister mentioned in his statement that the work will begin April 1 of this year. I'm going through the statement and it shows three specific things: the rent scale, the homeownership programs, and cost of construction and types of construction. The one thing that's missing from this statement is any mention of the housing allocation system. That's the system to determine where units get built and this was following the capital budget deliberations in October.

Just to clarify: is the allocation system going to be part of this independent review? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I wrote that letter, it was an oversight on the particular question the member is raising, but I assure the House that the methodology will be included in the review. I assure the House that it will happen. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Thanks for clarifying that. The independent review will include a review of the allocation system. It's going to be a pretty big review then if it's going to include the allocation system, the rent scale, homeownership, and cost of construction. It's very worthwhile work. I'm already looking forward to seeing the results of the review. What's the timeline to have it done? It mentions here that it will start on April 1. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Like the member, I'm really looking forward to the results of the independent review. We will start April 1 of this year and then it's going to take 12 months to do the total review, and we will have that by March 31 of next year. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) That will bring us pretty close to the next election. In terms of actually making changes and implementing recommendations out of that review, the time frame will be short.

I'm going to refer to the homeownership program review that was tabled by the

minister in November 2019. At the back here under the recommendation summary, this is page 54, there was one item recommendation that I'm pretty sure is about the district offices and it says "Formalizing Inspection Process." It says the benefits, that it "Could potentially lead to more efficient and cost-effective assessment of home repair needs." It is a recommendation; it is in this report.

What does it mean when it says "Formalizing Inspection Process"? It is my understanding that district housing staff travel and perform some sort of inspections, but when it says "formalize," what does that mean? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the details, I ask the president through you to answer the question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have been doing for the past year or so is building a system that is highly user friendly in the sense that we provide tablets to all the LHOs, and in most cases more than two tablets that are for the sole use of home inspections. That rolling out of the new inspection program, we have been working with the LHOs to try to formalize and actually regularize the inspections of all the units.

As per the management agreements that are in effect today, we do require that all

public housing units are inspected at least on an annual basis, and in the past we found that sometimes that did not happen. This is a process to formalize that so that each LHO is equipped with these tablets as soon as they enter their LHO administrative office. It is an automatic upload into the “cloud” and that way we can track all condition ratings of every public housing unit within the territory.

It has been rolled out. It is now a matter of the LHOs actually using them and we have found that a large majority of them have fully inspected all of the units within their community, but there are some that still need to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am reading off of page 42 in the report, and it explains a bit and I think this is about private homes; it is not about public housing. It says “Currently, there is a formalized inspection process that is used for public and staff housing called the ‘Condition Reporting Program’. A formalized process similar to this, but adapted for privately owned homes, could be applied to the homeownership inspections to standardize the gathering of information...”

In terms of what they are suggesting here in this report, does the housing corporation have any plans to implement this recommendation? It says that it would be low cost to implement and a high financial impact. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Based on what we are doing with the iPads, we want to transfer that over to the homeownership program, and we believe that it will be really beneficial to the homeowners that require their homes to be renovated as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Does the housing corporation have a plan to do this, taking these iPads or whatever that system that you use for public housing inspections and then using it for privately owned homes to make things work better for the homeowners? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, using the tenant engagement program, we use that system in the homeownership program as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Recommendation 9 in this homeownership review mentions communications. I’m trying to keep it tied to the district offices because it’s my understanding that the district offices

have a relationship with contractors.

The recommendation is “Increase Communication to Promote Contractor Availability in Communities to Conduct Renovations.” Is this a recommendation that is going to be acted upon and, if so, would it be the district offices that would be communicating with contractors? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That’s what we plan to do as well when we get our list of territory-wide contractors and when we do, let’s say for a homeownership repair program, we have this list of contractors that we could fly over to community A to do that required work for the homeowner. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One final thing from this homeownership review that I wanted to highlight was, I’m asking it because I’m not sure if it’s something that the district offices would handle or if it would be the headquarters office, and maybe I missed my chance to ask that question about headquarters. Recommendation 6 says “Put Application Online” and that’s allowing for online applications to your homeownership programs.

Does the housing corporation have a plan to make this available and, if so, would it run through the district offices or is it something that would be a

headquarters function? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Yes, it will go up to headquarters and headquarters will transfer it over to the district offices. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just finally just to wrap up my questions, it was before that the headquarters office had taken the lead and you had centralized all the homeownership program applications through the headquarters function for a while and then it was decided that this wasn’t working, so then it has been parcelled out or given back largely to the district offices. That’s the current situation, which is similar where things used to be. I just wanted to clarify if I understand it correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s centralized with the headquarters then distributed out to the other offices. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have three questions. If I’m in the wrong page as Chairman you can stop me. The first question I have is: the proposed 2020-23 business plan. On page 4 it says that it “has a new

Management Agreement in place with its community partners, the Local Housing Organizations, to deliver housing and provide maintenance and administration on housing units.”

I understand that new management agreements were signed in 2019-2020 and clarified, defined the relationships between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the local housing organizations, but I would like to know: what are the most significant differences between the current master plan agreement and the revised agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no real discrepancies between the management but to streamline how we can work more closely with the LHOs. That’s why we have the management agreement. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: This is my last question, Mr. Chairman. The housing corporation’s proposed 2020-23 business plan on page 15 that “there has been a delay in the signing of all Local Housing Organization Management agreements...” This means the implementation phase has not yet started.

My question is, the evaluation of the implementation of the Local Housing Organization Management Agreement is expected this year, 2020-21. I would like to know which local housing

organizations have not signed the new management agreement and what has been the cost of the delay. Final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don’t have the list, but I would like to ask my president to answer that for us. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have provided all the LHOs now with the management agreements. We first started with the Baffin and based on their feedback, we made amendments and/or any fixes for discrepancies and now they’re with all the other LHOs across the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot. It’s now a matter of their local housing organizations board to go ahead and give direction to actually sign on.

As for your first question as to the major differences, there aren’t any major differences except for the fact that it’s a little more detailed and that there are more appendages to assist the LHO managers in developing their application process and their allocation process as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. I don’t have any more names on this page. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and your officials.

In your business plan on page 14, in the leased units, the rent supplement for

rents that need to be paid, I guess... .
Okay, these are administration and maintenance, utilities, power, fuel, water and sewage, and garbage collection. These are utilities and it's a lot of money. It looks like they're requesting just for half of it that will be used to pay for that. Would there be any way for the people who rent the houses to conserve and save money? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question correctly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has 234 leased public housing units as of March 31, 2018, and if I understand it correctly, they were added to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. That's it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the programs budget for rental revenue of \$(17,040), it is in brackets. What does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$17,040, it is \$17.04 million. It is for rental revenue that we get from the local housing organizations' rent payment. That is the rental revenue that we get from the local housing organizations. It is \$17,040,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser, when you want to mute the system, use the electronic panel. You just touch the button once and let it go. We could hear

the conversation that you three were having.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though we could hear them, everything here is going to make sense.

>>*Laughter*

I made a mistake; it is \$17 million. I thought it was \$17,000. I don't have another question. It is clearer now and it will get even clearer as we go on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more questions on district offices, so we will move on page to O-IV-5. Affordable Housing Program. Public Housing. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, the very first thing on page 13 on public housing, it states that you want to increase the number of houses and make them affordable. (interpretation ends) When it comes to that section, do I understand correctly that when it comes to mould remediation programs, is that one of the programs that is listed in your business plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Netser

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a different mould remediation program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is separate from the previous one. That being the case, in your report on page 10, (interpretation ends) the development of a standard design to potentially mitigate mould generation, the completion date is spring of 2020, this year. Will you be extending that program to another fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Can you hear me? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I am getting used to all the technical stuff. (interpretation ends) It's into the program known as the mitigation of our moulded units. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does it mean that there will be another year added so that you can remediate other houses that need cleaning up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Yes Mr. Chairman. It is usually through the M&I program, but I would like to refer the supplement to my president. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify the matter in regard to mould remediation, we are looking at how to prevent the growth of mould, for example, determining if the ventilation system in the house is turned off or not being used often enough. When there is not enough air circulation, the tenant will be given advice on how they can reduce the mould. With the designs, we have redesigned the houses to prevent mould growth. With the houses that are renovated, we have redesigned the model to prevent the growth of mould.

I hope I responded. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the people who are working... . We usually have multiplex units that are built in the later years. When mould starts growing, usually the people who are employed live in better houses than the ones who are on basic income, and they pay approximately \$1,200 and their houses are mouldy. Have you considered lowering the rent if a tenant lives in a house that has mould? It is the biggest problem in my riding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the tenants who are renting mouldy units, after the local housing organization has investigated the matter, then their rent is lowered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it's not only in my riding. I'm sure there are some mouldy units in other communities; overcrowding for one thing.

Maybe I'll rephrase my response. If the tenant is required to move to another unit and if the house goes on fire, goes up in flames or if the tenant moves to another unit, they renovate the mouldy unit, and when he moves back to the cleaned house, will the rent go back up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would go back to the original rent scale because it has been renovated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The president indicated in regard to mechanical ventilation that you're going to be looking at ensuring the system works properly. Have you considered simple ventilation, very simple ventilation like putting a chimney in? The houses are multiplexes and they have only one exit, one door. Would you consider putting in chimneys instead of using the ventilation system? You said that you would be using more *Inuit Qaujimagatugangit*. Would you consider going back to the chimney system? That will be my final question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you are a homeowner, you try to simplify the system in your house. When it gets very cold, the HRV doesn't work anymore. We are looking at how we can improve the system and whether it would be better if chimneys were utilized. We are looking at different options as to how we can improve the system. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question under public housing, almost two years ago when we had the OAG televised review on climate change, I recommended that the Nunavut Housing Corporation utilize the Qulliq Energy Corporation's smart meters and conduct an audit of power usage of Iqaluit public housing tenants to find an average usage per household type and identify areas or units which have unusually high usage rates. I just want to first ask if the Nunavut Housing Corporation has found the time to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are working with the Qulliq Energy Corporation on that particular file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I heard the minister

correctly, he is working with the Qulliq Energy Corporation on this file. If that is the case, would he be able to provide us with an update as to what has been done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I understand that they have had their first initial meeting, but for more details, if you can allow my president to elaborate a bit more on that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in discussions currently with the QEC and we were very happy to hear as well that they would be extending the Net Metering Program to public housing units, which would really help us out as well in the energy efficiency aspect of things. We have rolled that into those discussions and as you can imagine, considering the 5,000 plus units that we have, it's going to be a large undertaking.

What we will need to do is obviously get the background data as to actual usage right now. That would be the smart first step and then from that point forward, how much actual energy saved will be implemented based on the Net Metering Program. High hopes and at the same time the discussions are just starting up based on the net metering aspect of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Audla, for

that response. That actually leads into my next question. On page 22 of the most recent annual report it identifies that public housing maintenance costs continue to climb, including power usage, which has increased \$2 million and it's now up to \$29 million a year in energy for public housing units. I was going to ask: when will the Nunavut Housing Corporation address this through utilizing renewable energy systems?

My next question is: being optimistic, when would the NHC like to implement renewable energy systems on public housing units? When could the first pilot project or test begin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to do it as soon as possible, but it's going to depend on the Qulliq Energy Corporation for available different sources of energy that will be made available to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 4 the minister told the House that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be reviewing, an independent review of the public housing construction allocation and the public housing rent scale. My question is: in the draft 2020-23 business plan, why is there no reference to reviewing the public housing rent scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Ms. Towtongie. Because we just announced it recently and it would not be in the business plan, but we are going to go ahead with it. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. In the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, Action 12, it talks about the implementation plan for the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. That strategy indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent geared to income. I'm curious: what type of models has the Nunavut Housing Corporation reviewed to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're reviewing the co-operative type of housing as well as the condominiums that we have in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the business plan it mentions the arrears collection rate for public housing and there's a number that's provided for the

entire territory. What's the total arrears collection rate for Nunavut as a whole? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It varies from community to community, but the overall collection rate, Mr. Liu would have a better answer for that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The average for the whole territory is 84 percent. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's my understanding that there's a new type of arrangement for public housing tenants who are on income assistance in that they no longer have to walk a cheque over physically to the local housing office; that it's done in between the Department of Family Services and the local housing associations or organizations. Has this been rolled out across the territory and is it helping with the arrears collection rate? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: The answer is yes, it has been rolled out to all the communities and is having a positive effect in terms of collecting arrears for our tenants. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Qirngnuq asked a question on the utility costs and this is the longstanding arrangement where the housing corporation is funding the operations of many municipalities by paying higher rates for water and sewage and garbage collection, well, higher rates compared to, let's say, homeowners.

I know this is an action item in the blueprint for action in terms of trying to figure this out and the Department of CGS is a partner in that. What's the status of that work to try to figure out the funding arrangements for municipalities and other utility providers such as the Qulliq Energy Corporation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the details, if we could get my president to answer that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister had previously answered on the QEC initiative, that's part of the exercise we're going through with the other departments such as the QEC for the net metering and then CGS for utility rates, the water, the taxes and the garbage collection aspect of things.

We've had discussions with CGS, they are ongoing, and we are trying to

determine the current community-by-community breakdown of actual expenses where the hamlets impose those fees, and then what we can do to try to either mitigate some of the expenses that the hamlets have without necessarily taking away from their operational requirements by applying those fees. Discussions are ongoing.

The overall effect of what we have identified in the blueprint in collaboration with the other departments has really helped our cause in the aspects of trying to cut costs. Everyone knows and understands that it seems like it's going from one pocket to the next, but at the same time there are actual expenses that we need to be aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it was Action 53 in the blueprint for action, municipal financing. Municipal financing is still an issue and I know CGS is working on this with municipalities, but I would just like to encourage the housing corporation to not give up on this one. It's important to try to figure this out as a government and how we fund the hamlets.

The Net Metering Program was mentioned. It ties into your utility costs here. If you look at the amount of public housing across Nunavut, it's what, 5,000 units. That's a lot of roofs where you could put solar panels if it's going to make sense and if it's going to save you some money, only if it would pay for itself, you would hope. Is that on the radar down the road? Is it something that

is a possibility in terms of small-scale renewable installations on public housing units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are working with the QEC and the Department of Environment on that particular file. Anytime we can save any money, then we want to go down that way, but as long as it doesn't cost us a lot of money. We would certainly like to do that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's great to hear that it's being worked on. Do you have any goals or any dates by which you hope to have things in place, let's say, a pilot project or different completion dates under that project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're hoping to have something by September of this year, but it would have to be approved by cabinet. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 45 of the blueprint for action,

Action 51 mentions potential opportunities to reduce costs associated with housing in Nunavut. I read this and I think it's about public housing, but maybe it doesn't. It mentions the NHC will explore the use of Arviat's sustainability house as an innovation test centre. (interpretation) What's the status of that right now? Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy can respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Arviat sustainability house, I'm not sure if you're aware that there were two houses built with the same design. One was being used with a different type of insulation and/or different type of heating systems or whatever. The data has been collected. It's now being processed and we're hoping to look at that data and see what we can do to improve our designs based on what has been collected. Also, it was in that same action.

We have been working with the Canadian High Arctic Research Centre on HRVs as an example, what we can do to improve the technology that exists right now and to make it so that it's adapted for the extreme climates that we deal with. If we were to have the appropriate HRVs for the homes with this climate, they would have to be large, refrigerator size pieces of equipment just to adequately do the air exchange within the cold, but we know that's not feasible.

It's a matter of how we can try to come about improving the existing technology and then gathering the data towards that. It's ongoing work and in a lot of ways we are trailblazing in that sense of trying to adapt new technology to extreme climates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just one more question on this particular topic. In terms of reducing your utility costs, has the housing corporation looked at shared utility rooms or shared heating used in places such as arctic Russia? I understand that they have these massive boilers, and then you can hook up, you could provide hot water and heat to hundreds of units based out of one central facility. Is this that has been done in Nunavut or by the housing corporation, centralized utilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was once in Russia in 1999 and I witnessed that, so it was very interesting to see, but we are talking, we are looking at that with the QEC, on waste heat recovery through the power plants. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That sounds really interesting. The housing

corporation is looking at possibly tying on some of your units, or would it be a local housing complex to district heat systems? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are reviewing that and if our housing units are close to the power plants, we are going to look into that. We would consider that idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Do you have any communities identified that you are looking at in particular? Is it Sanikiluaq, is it Arviat, which already has a district heating system, or is it kind of a Nunavut-wide thing right now? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have some communities identified, but it is in the early stages, so we are still not sure. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Action 52 on your blueprint for action is regarding encouraging your tenants to better maintain their units. I know that you have developed a program and it is

based on awareness and education on maintaining their units.

I have brought it up before, the idea of having tenants being able to perform basic maintenance such as painting. Painting their own units, the housing associations could provide the paint, tenants can do the labour and then an inspection could be done afterwards by the local housing to make sure that the work is done. Maybe in return the tenant would get paid by having some of their arrears removed or something like that.

Payment encourages ownership, gets some work done, maybe helps with the arrears issue, maybe it would work; maybe it is a bad idea. Has that been investigated at all? This is not the first year that I have mentioned this idea at the committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has a good point. I think that any time our clients take value in the house that they are leasing or renting from the corporation, it really gives them incentive as well to really look after the home, and at the end it would save the corporation or the LHOs, the local housing association, the money in terms of maintenance costs. That is really what we would truly look at. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am happy to hear that the minister shares my

interest in this idea. Would the minister be able to commit to trying this out or seeing if there is an LHO that wants to try this out? Like I said, maybe it is not a good idea, maybe it would not work, but it is something that we could try. Would the minister be able to commit to seeing something happen in this upcoming fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think, Mr. Chairman, if we never try anything, then we will never know. I can certainly commit to trying something like that in one of our communities. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I look forward to hearing about it and I hope to hear that it works out. If not, I guess I will take the blame or no, actually you will; you are the minister.

>>Laughter

On the same Action Item 52, the local housing association in one of the communities I represent had the practice of, in the summertime when they were doing a lot of their maintenance, they would bring on some casual employees and it was my understanding that a portion of their earnings would go to offset their arrears. I am not sure what the exact process was. I never really got

that into the details, but tenants with arrears could do work for the local housing association, earn some income, and also pay off some of their arrears at the same time. It sounds like a win-win.

I know that the housing corporation does not manage the day-to-day operations of the local housing association, but does the housing corporation have a position on this type of activity or way to deal with arrears by the local housing association? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises another good point and we will talk with the LHOs or the local housing associations that are willing to go down that path and if they go that way, then we will support them. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My final questions are on the rent scale and I do not have a ton of questions; it is just based on the rent ceiling.

There is the rent ceiling you can't go past, and they are the same for every Nunavut community. It is based on the number of bedrooms, right, and so I am going to use an extreme example. If you have a public housing tenant who is earning \$500,000 a year, they have a wildly successful business, but they have no interest in moving into their own home, they live in public housing and they are allocated a unit and they want to

stay there. That individual would fall under the rent ceiling and cannot exceed the maximum unit rent, which are established on page...sorry. Even with a five-bedroom house they would not pay more than \$2,443 per month, even if they are a very high income earner. That is my only question on the rent scale. I just want to clarify that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the member is saying is correct, but there is just nobody that makes \$500,000 annually that are renting from our units. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. I don't have any more names on this page. We will move on to page O-IV-6. Affordable Housing Programs. Staff Housing. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last page, minister, almost done. In your opening comments, you had mentioned that the staff housing portfolio will increase by 48 new leased units. First, I would like to ask: in which specific communities will these units be located in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand it is Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Cambridge Bay, if I am correct. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser.

Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. How many of those 48 new units will be leased in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: I understand it will be 30 units; that is the number that the member is looking for. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the need to provide staff housing to the GN employees there is no doubt about that, but it seems to be a black hole. The government continues to pull up more and more funding and resources into staff housing when it is being identified that ownership is one of the ideal solutions to our community housing crisis.

It is my understanding that this staff housing portfolio continues to grow year after year after year and we continue to sink millions and millions of dollars into the staff housing program; this year an extra \$4 million. The year before that it was an extra X number of million dollars.

I would like to ask, at what point will the Nunavut Housing Corporation say enough is enough, this is how many staff housing units we need, we are going to shift away to... emphasize homeownership and encourage

employees to get out of staff housing as opposed to continually increasing the portfolio? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wholeheartedly agree with the member that I believe our workforce should have their own homes, and that is why we are doing a comprehensive review of the homeownership program, how we can help our working staff out there to be able to get into their own homes.

To say enough is enough, for the housing corporation to say that, it would have to come from the cabinet. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another issue that my constituents face is the dire situation that Iqaluit is in. Our rental market rate is near zero, which means that there are almost no vacant units to be found, nothing to be leased. When someone has moved here for a job, they have to struggle for who knows how long until they can actually manage to find a unit to live in.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has, looks like it is going to be, close to 700 staff housing units here in Iqaluit. I think it is great that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is providing these staff housing units to employees, but on the other hand, the rest of the employees and the rest of the citizens of Iqaluit are struggling to find housing.

This just gets further complicated when you throw in the housing shortage and the inflated rental market. I believe Iqaluit has some of the highest rents in Canada. When we are looking at a one-bedroom for \$2,500 a month, that's Toronto market rates, and I feel that the Nunavut Housing Corporation Staff Housing Program has something to play in that. The amount of units that the NHC has been renting in Iqaluit for years and years have played a role in the big housing real estate companies to continue to increase their rates year after year.

My next question is going to be along the lines of the NHC negotiating tactics. I'm curious to find out if the minister would be able to explain a little about the process that the corporation goes through when it goes about renewing staff housing contracts or seeking out new accommodations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Lightstone. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Iqaluit isn't the only community with severe housing shortages; it is right across the territory. We issue territory-wide RFPs with attached leases. We receive very competitive pricing. The NHC leases mostly when it's across the territory. Preferred tenant of choice leases are three years, with two to three-year renewals, which is attractive to our landlords. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the NHC releases these RFPs will, for example, Northern Properties or Northview or whatever it will be called shortly, when they send in an RFP and they offer an X number of units and an X number of dollars, are there negotiations that take place afterward and, if so, can you give an example, this is how much they offered, but we countered with X? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a detailed question and I would like to ask Terry, my president, to answer that for us. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Short answer no. There are no negotiations because it is through the RFP process, so we look at the lowest bids that come our way. Having said that and knowing and understanding the market situation here in Iqaluit, I have suggested that the NHC potentially being a factor of all of the high rents.

It's multifaceted, where in Iqaluit there hasn't been a lot of land development, which creates that shortage of availability for any new development. There's a lot of in-fill happening which creates sort of an environment where the private landlords seem to have that ability to be able to dictate what prices they apply for rental purposes.

Over the long term we are trying to work

with the city and CGS as well and see what we can to try to alleviate some of that, but as it stands, trying to address the staff housing shortage, public housing shortage, all of that, it's going to take a lot of concerted effort on everyone's part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the RFP process is completed, at the end of the day, does the NHC pay less than the market rate for particular units? For example, let's take the Road to Nowhere apartment complex. That is almost all staff housing. In that particular building, I believe that a two-bedroom was renting for \$2,800 a month, I think, if I recall correctly. Anyway, for example would the NHC be paying the same market rate or would it be less? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be less for the corporation because we are leasing in bulk, in big numbers. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I will move on. Mr. Audla mentioned that he is working with the city as well as CGS to address the land shortage, which is the root to the entire housing situation in Iqaluit. Is one of the options that are

currently in discussions between the NHC and CGS looking at potentially developing land and then building upon it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand before them for down the road that they have not had any discussions over that file. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Last year in June, in response to Mr. Lightstone's written question, the Minister of Finance gave an update in terms of what the staff housing waitlist looked like and it had a total of 116 people on the GN employees' staff housing waiting list. This was as of March 31, 2019. What does the waiting list currently sit at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that we do not administer the waitlist anymore. It has been transferred over to the HR, Human Resources. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The waitlist function sits with HR and it is my understanding that it is under a committee or that the allocation

committee would have access to that and that the housing corporation is on the allocation committee. Is this information accessible all through the housing corporation or does it have to go through the Department of HR in terms of trying to understand where the waiting list is right now? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. The housing corporation used to administer that with staff housing allocations, but right now we are basically just building them. My president can expand on the answer if you will allow him. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Being that it is being transitioned right now between the housing corporation and the Department of Human Resources, the one thing through this exercise that we have been finding is that it takes a little bit of extra time to try to gather information.

Considering that the allocation committee was newly formed with all departments at the ADM level, in going through that exercise, we have been finding that at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in order for us to accommodate the staff that have been approved and to determine the number of vacant units that are available for those that have been approved, we need to get a better handle as to the actual ratio.

Typically on a territorial-wide basis, vacant units are allocated on a 2:1 basis. As an example, if there are seven vacant units, there are 14 positions that are approved to occupy that. We found over the years that that ratio has helped based on the fact that things change as you go through the hiring process, offers are made, offers are declined, and so on and so forth. The 2:1 ratio works pretty well in the communities, but here in Iqaluit what we have done is, because there are so many positions as well, that we offer it on a 3:1 basis. Let's say we have six vacant units. There are 18 positions that have been approved.

So far so good, but we need to get a better handle as to whether that's the appropriate number. At the same time, considering that the finance department does provide us \$5 million per annum for new staff housing builds, we also need to get a better handle as to where those builds will happen, dependent on the communities that are in most need of staff housing units, that have either been approved, or positions that are in the queue waiting to be approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Audla. I understand that a little more now from the answer.

(interpretation ends) If we use the example of a community where they can't hire a wildlife officer because there is simply no staff housing unit available and that wildlife officer, under this new procedures manual, is a category 1, the top category, would that situation trigger

the building of more staff housing units in the community? I do not understand how the decisions are made.

With public housing, you have a formula and based on the waitlist and your total stock; with the staff housing one, I'm really trying to wrap my head around how you decide. I realize it's on the capital side, but I'm asking about the waitlist. Is the waitlist within the community looked at similar to public housing or is it the waitlist versus the number of available units or is it something different? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my president to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That answer is quite involved in the sense of when the allocation committee is looking at the requests from each of the departments as to positions that they need to fill and whether or not they would offer housing alongside that position prior to the actual advertising, they go through that process. That 2:1 ratio I mentioned earlier, if there are vacant units that are readily available for occupancy, on a 2:1 ratio basis, then they would be approved for that request. If there aren't enough units in that community, then they're put into the queue and that queue is the determinant as to whether or not new builds will be allocated for that community.

I'll use Pangnirtung as an example. There are seven vacant units in Pangnirtung, but there are 14 positions that have been approved to occupy those seven units, knowing that at least out of the 14, not all of them will be hired, but also that there are seven more that are in the queue that haven't been approved yet. Because of that, it was determined that a new five-plex would be built in Pangnirtung, as an example. It's all dependent on how long that queue is and at the same time, based on economies of scale, if there happens to be builds happening in that community, then we try to take advantage of that as well.

It is becoming clearer now, going through this transitional exercise with the Department of HR, and as we go through this, I think it is hopefully going to become a lot clearer within the next few months or so to make the determination as to how to best handle the housing requests that are pending and housing requests that have been approved, and whether the 2:1 and 3:1 ratio is sufficient to be able to make that determination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Audla. I am just going to jump in with a question here. You use Pangnirtung as an example in determining the amount of staff housing you need compared to GN staff, but can you use Qikiqtarjuaq as an example? He has been waiting for a staff housing unit for years and there is a job that cannot be filled because of that. I wonder if you can explain that situation as an example. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would really like to use Qikiqtarjuaq as an example, but I do not have the

specific information for Qikiqtarjuaq. I can only go on assumptions and I am kind of leery of not going into assumptions on Qikiqtarjuaq, but what I can do is to look at the Qikiqtarjuaq situation and come back to my minister to provide that to the committee, if that is agreeable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, it would be nice to see what is happening in this particular situation. Mr. Main, you have another question? Please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your question gave me more questions, so thank you.

>>Laughter

Just final on this staff housing waitlist, I will use an example. In one community you have, say, five employees that are at category 1, which is your wildlife officers or their health care professionals or their category 1, and they are waiting for housing units. In another community there are five on the waiting list and they are category 3. They are important, they have been allocated staff housing, but they are category 3 versus 1. Under the waitlist that is being used, there is no differentiation between priorities placed on positions. For example, wildlife officers, there is no real prioritization of where staff housing units get built based on this waitlist. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Again thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to hand it over to my information bank.

(interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The priority 1, 2, 3 with respect to staff housing allocations is still only used as a basis for the decision-making by the allocation committee, but because they are at the ADM level and they represent all departments within the allocation committee. As previously asked yesterday by another member on specific acts for Nunavut beneficiaries or Nunavut Inuit as an example that are staffed, that is also discussed during that allocation committee as well. Not specifically in the formalized sense of it, but if there are individuals within their department that they feel are crucial to the operations of their department, they make that request at that time.

They also provide, "As per my DM, this is a priority for the department and we feel that this individual is important for the purposes of assigning staff housing." Then it will be up to the determination of the allocation committee to allocate accordingly. The whole purpose of the new allocation committee is to ensure that all departments are being given the opportunity to give their priority for staffing positions.

If it's okay with the Chair, just to show our efficiency, we've got the Qikiqtarjuaq example. Based on what we have heard, we have managed to be able to get a duplex in Qikiqtarjuaq for the purposes of trying to get staff hired in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Did that happen just in between when Mr. Rumbolt asked his question or... ?

>> *Laughter*

I was going to say that you're very efficient if you can get things done that quickly. It's getting late.

Okay, one last question on the staff housing waitlist. When you look at the public housing waitlist, tenants are required to come back and, whatever it is, renew their application. Is it every six months? I can't remember, otherwise they drop off the list and then they have to come back and reapply. Is there a same requirement on the staff housing or the GN staff who are on a GN staff housing waitlist? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: I understand it's sometimes yes and sometimes no, but I would like to get the president to elaborate on that as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: That process, again, the Pangnirtung example I gave where there are 14 positions currently approved for staff housing, with seven vacant units, typically those 14 don't get filled and at some point in time that position gets dropped off where they have to go back through the process of the job action request and to request again with that position's housing, which would go through the allocation committee.

Within the HR process, they do have their own timeline as to how long the position would be outstanding and it's all dependent on where they are within the process of hiring and screening as well, but I would leave those specifics for the Department of Human Resources. We do try to monitor it.

In cases, I'll use the Pangnirtung example again, where we managed to convert a four-plex from staff housing to public housing in May 2018, we did have the list of outstanding positions that were approved for staff housing, but because of the length of time it took and at the same time the four-plex sort of came into disrepair and that it would cost roughly about \$250,000 to get it back to liveable conditions again, we worked with the Department of Finance to seek their agreement as to whether or not this would be better suited for public housing purposes at that time. That was 2018.

We entered into that agreement and we managed to get that four-plex into the public housing stock, a unique situation, and then from that point forward, there have been increased allocations for the purposes of creating either new positions in Pangnirtung or new positions that have been approved for staff housing for Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I realize that it's the Department of Human Resources that maintains a waitlist now, but it seems on a kind of fundamental level unfair for public housing waitlist folk to have to come

back, in some cases, for years and years and years and years and renew their application to make sure that their name doesn't fall off the list. For GN employees, a staff housing unit, I'm not sure if that's the situation where they have to come back periodically to make sure they don't fall off the list and lose their priority. I realize it's with the Department of Human Resources, but I'm just mentioning it here so hopefully that can be addressed.

One final comment on the staff housing, I know you're looking at the allocation methodology in terms of where things get built, and one key thing I think that has to be looked at is how many years has an individual been on the waiting list. In the example, you have a GN employee who has been eight years on the GN staff housing waiting list and they haven't been allocated a unit or in the case of a public housing tenant who has been on the waiting list for 11 years and their community is getting no new public housing. I realized we have moved past public housing, but I wanted get that mentioned. I think it's important.

My last question is based on page 23 and it's a priority for two years from now, 2021-22 and it says "Continue to monitor the success and impact of the Homeownership Assistance Program pilot." It is related to staff housing because I think many of us are in agreement that homeownership has to be the alternative to staff housing. The Homeownership Assistance Program pilot, is there going to be a pilot program run in the upcoming fiscal year called the Homeownership Assistance Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're really pressing my staff to come up with a comprehensive homeownership program for Nunavummiut and we have been really working hard on that particular file. I can say that today. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the passion for this subject. Will there be a pilot in this fiscal year, or am I looking in the wrong budget because homeownership programs would be in the capital budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand it won't be in this fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is the priority item on page 23 a typographical kind of error? It says, "Continue to monitor the success and impact of the Homeownership Assistance Program pilot." I'm just trying to understand. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mr. Terry Audla would like to answer and respond to that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is in our work plan, an anticipation that we would work towards developing some type of homeownership assistance program. As the minister had alluded to, we are quite diligently trying to put something together.

We have been speaking with the CMHC as well, and they have those four main funding streams under that National Housing Strategy. One stream looks promising in that direction, but it's too early to say at the moment as to how promising it actually is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is there any opportunity to try to tie the housing corporation's work on the homeownership programs with this Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy that was done? It seemed to focus for Nunavut on the homeownership piece and maybe it is apples and oranges, but is there any opportunity to try to tie the two together? That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are working with the Inuit organizations, and we just signed a protocol with NTI on how we can work together in terms of servicing Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to go back to what Mr. Main had mentioned in terms of, I guess, the president and his response. He stated that a lot of the housing allocations for staff housing go with the position. I am curious to know how. Has the department considered that? If these employees are local hires and they already have housing, is there... ? (interpretation) It seems like you are expecting people to come in from other places and jurisdictions. It does not seem to factor in hiring locals and housing them.

We see staff housing units that have never been occupied, and Pangnirtung is usually used as an example. Is it not possible to give them to another entity? (interpretation ends) How long do you have to wait to maintain a unit if the position is not being filled for a year or two? When I am talking to local housing, some of these units have been empty for 12 years.

There has to be some kind of timeline to say maybe it is better to let it go now, and assign it to a different position. Is there any kind of tracking system for that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Audla. Sorry, jumping the gun there.

>>*Laughter*

Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Now you got me lost here.

>>*Laughter*

I'm sorry. Yeah, it has to be a collaborative discussion between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Human Resources. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser, and I apologize for my mistake. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that it has been moved from the Nunavut Housing Corporation to another department because we are not getting any answers from the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

If we look at a community and there are government employees who are renting public housing, have you ever considered rent-to-own programs for those long-time employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you. There is a rent-to-own program, the Tenant to Owner Program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser.

I don't have any more names on list for this page and it is the last page on housing, so I will ask members to go back to page M-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$217,718,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser, any closing comments?

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for asking questions, and I do apologize for not responding to your questions. I would like to thank my staff for their diligent work.

(interpretation ends) I look forward to working with all of you, and just like Ms. Nakashuk, I am really grateful that the Staff Housing Policy has been transferred over to the HR department, so we will be able to answer all of the questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here and answering the questions for the last couple of days. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

Arctic College is the next department. We will take a brief five-minute break before we move on. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:30 and resumed at 17:40*

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are now moving on to Nunavut Arctic College. I'll start by asking Minister Netser: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I most certainly would like to have my staff here with me. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Does the committee agree for the minister's officials into the chambers?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Netser, if you could please introduce your officials and then continue on into your opening comments. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Pauloosie Suvega, President of Nunavut Arctic College, and on my left is Marcello Parungao, who is the finance person.

(interpretation ends) Good day, Mr. Chairman and committee members. I am pleased to present Nunavut Arctic

College's 2020-21 main estimates and business plan. Nunavut Arctic College maintains the operations laid out in the business plan with a budget that is comprised of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding contracts, and revenue from fee sources such as tuition. To that end, Nunavut Arctic College's total main estimates from the GN for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$39,019,000.

The funding for this year includes an increase of approximately \$324,000 over the previous fiscal year. The bulk of this difference, \$240,000, is monies transferred to the college from the Department of Community and Government Services. From this budget, \$95,000 will be directed to the Marketing, Recruitment and Communications Division. Please note that the shortfall of \$11,000 will come from monies previously allocated to the law program, which will be in its final year of offering in 2020-21.

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, \$240,000 will be used for the curriculum and delivery of a computer specialist training program at the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit. This program, which the college offered in 2016-17, is a two-year diploma program providing the skills and training for individuals interested in working in the information technology sector.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that you and fellow members will be keenly interested in learning more about the delivery of this program. However, while the purchasing of course material is an important step, there are many additional steps that must be taken before the actual delivery of the

program. In line with the activities in the college's business plan, the earliest this program could be delivered is the 2022-23 academic year.

The college is also requesting that an increase of \$95,000 be directed to its Marketing, Recruitment and Communications Division. These funds will also allow the division to continue with its important work. Last year I requested a total allocation of \$561,000 to enhance this vital division. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, that division was allocated \$365,000 and it was recommended that the additional \$95,000 be allocated in the coming fiscal year.

I am happy to report that in the past fiscal year the Marketing, Recruitment and Communications Division has completed many important tasks. The college's website was updated and is now accessible in all four languages. The division built an active social media presence and is working to update promotional items for the college's programs. The team has also worked diligently to build relationships with key education partners in our territory with high schools and other partner organizations, such as Connected North. Connected North is a national organization that uses videoconferencing to connect teachers, role models, and other resources directly to schools in remote indigenous communities, including Nunavut. This partnership offers a new way for college representatives to talk directly with students in our communities and will be factored into the college's recruitment strategy, which is being developed.

Mr. Chairman, this division also plans to

hire an employee to develop a college alumni network. This position is already located in the college's organizational chart and will be in Clyde River. An alumni network will allow the college to connect with students to survey them about their activities after leaving the college, to promote existing or new programs, or to advertise employment opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, the remaining estimates for the college are close to 2019-2020 allocations. This budget will allow for continuity in the college's operations. Many key milestones were met last year, including the finalization of the college's partnership with Memorial University, the use of a formal taxonomy policy, and a five-year academic planning process. These processes provide the college with a solid foundation on which to grow into the future.

Mr. Chairman, a key support for the college is its active board of governors, which includes passionate student representatives from all three campuses. The board provides solid support, direction and guidance for the college. A significant focus of the board was the development of a 10-year strategic plan for the college. Board members are currently leading consultations in various communities across the territory and have plans for additional visits in 2020. I am confident the board will provide me with a completed 10-year strategic plan by the fall.

Mr. Chairman, these opening comments are intended to provide this committee with an update on key projects related to the college's business plan and main estimates. I am pleased to take any questions you may have. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Nakashuk, please go ahead.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the government's proposed 2020-21 budget allocation for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, the college's total budget is made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding, and revenue from other sources, such as tuition fees. The government's proposed contribution to Nunavut Arctic College for 2020-21 is just over \$39 million. The standing committee notes that the college's overall budget for 2020-21 is projected to be close to \$57.6 million, which is somewhat less than the college's revised main estimates for 2019-2020. The standing committee encourages the college's board of governors in their efforts to identify additional funding opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was pleased to note that efforts have been made to ensure that all of the college's board of governors positions will be filled as well as the proposal to establish two 'at-large' positions to increase the board's capacity. Members further appreciate the board's efforts to consult directly with Nunavut communities and look forward to reviewing the college's 10-year strategic plan when it is finalized.

Nunavut Arctic College plays an important role in training and education for Nunavut's professional and trades occupations, as well as offering opportunities for individuals looking to improve their skills and employment potential. The new memorandum of understanding with Memorial University will certainly lead to a number of opportunities to revise, expand and enhance the college's offerings. Members were pleased to note a renewed emphasis on building relationships with education partners to improve recruitment efforts in such areas as ensuring that high school students are more aware of potential career paths and better prepared to undertake post-secondary education. Members also encourage the college in its collaboration with the Departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Family Services to draft a Nunavut mine training strategy.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College currently offers degree programs in the areas of education, nursing and law. While members appreciate that a requirement for graduates from these programs to remain to work in Nunavut may not be enforceable, the standing committee again urges the minister and college officials to work hard to encourage graduates to stay in Nunavut and to continue to work in their field of study.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates the college's efforts to improve the experience of students at its three campuses with such initiatives as its Family Education Model. Members note, however, that the ongoing lack of adequate student accommodation in the regional centres often limits

opportunities for Nunavummiut who apply to the college. Community learning centres also play an important role in providing access to courses and programs which can support individuals in preparing for future education and employment options. The committee appreciated receiving additional information from the minister with respect to the Getting Ready for Employment and Training program which is delivered in partnership with the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support Ms. Nakashuk's comments in her opening remarks. We have talked a lot about community learning centres in the past because it seems like even though they are there, it is as though they have been forgotten even before the government became a reality prior to 2017.

However, the important role they have is talked about and it is good they have good support as well. I don't want the mining training strategy to also be forgotten because it is a vital part because there are not enough Nunavummiut involved and we can see there will be some benefits that will come out of this strategy. We will employ people who will take advantage of this and I believe that we need to get this quickly through.

Lastly, the strategic plan that the minister mentioned, the board for Nunavut Arctic College is a key part and an active group and I'm very pleased that they are an important part of this at the college. They are helping lead consultants in various communities and I'm pleased to know that the board is developing a strategy to encourage a good plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Any more general comments? If not, we're going to break down Nunavut Arctic College by page as we did with the housing corporation. We're going to start off with this page that says "O-I-1." Corporate Summary. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials, Mr. Suvega and Mr. Parungao.

Before I get into my questions, I would like to follow up on a couple of issues that I raised last year and last year I had identified the enrolment at the Nunatta Campus had been declining the last three years, as was identified in the annual report. My first question is: has this decline in enrolment at the Nunatta Campus continued? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Chairman, I understand it has gone down a bit, but we're monitoring why it has gone down. One of the issues that we face is our lack of student accommodations. We've had to turn away students that have applied for programs within Nunatta, so that is one of the main reasons why we cannot

accept that have applied for various programs with the college. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Just not to create any confusion, we have broken it down by pages here and the first one I said is Corporate Summary and then there's Headquarters, Nunavut Research Institute, and Regional Campuses just so that members know where to ask their questions. Mr. Lightstone, please continue.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, to follow up on another issue from last year... Well, thank you for providing that information, minister, and I hope that at some point the minister will be able to share findings with us.

Another issue that I raised last year was the fact that many of the college's program offerings don't incorporate resumé writing into the syllabus. Last year I encouraged the minister to reconsider that and the minister committed to doing so. I would like to ask: over the last 12 months, how much progress has been made and in this current academic year, has the resumé writing been offered to more programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have programs within the colleges where students go for the Office Administration Program. We can certainly include it at the particular portion the member is requesting, incorporate it into one of those

programs. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister be able to inform the committee which programs currently offer resumé writing and, if the minister doesn't have that information, will he commit to providing it to us at a later date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: I can give that information at a later date by writing a letter to the chair of the standing committee and he can share it with our colleagues. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on, my next question is going to be regarding the computer specialist training program at the Nunatta Campus. I'm glad to hear that this is something that the college is going to work towards and appreciate the emphasis on ensuring that it is done appropriately. I have two questions; first would be: under which division of Arctic College would this computer specialist training fall under? Education, technology, trades, and so on and so forth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still in the planning stages to introduce that

program. We have not identified which divisions it will be under. We will inform you when we do. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned before, I think it is very crucial to ensure that appropriate course material is selected. The purpose I was asking which division it is under, who is taking the lead role on determining which course material is appropriate? Would it be one of the senior officials or is it delegated to a division director? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We want this program to be very successful and that is why we are taking a fair bit of time to develop a proper training program. This program will be spearheaded by the senior education team which is led by the vice-president of Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to my next question. Last year I praised Arctic College for their release of the 2019-2020 academic calendar, which was light-years beyond anything that the college had ever publicly published and I was so excited and glad to see it. That calendar was released about this time last year or shortly earlier. To date I have not seen a similar program offering

releases for the upcoming academic year. I would like to ask if the college intends on releasing something similar soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are aiming for next month. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I look forward to seeing the next program calendar.

My next question is in relation to application dates. Many post-secondary institutions, especially those with highly competitive programs, start their application process as early as the fall, and generally colleges and universities across the country have a deadline of February for applicants to have equal consideration. My next question is: when does the college open up the application process for next year's fall academic calendar? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you for the question, Adam. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For various programs, there are different deadlines in terms of having to apply for certain areas in which the student wants to learn, but you now normally should start applying by June. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. I want to remind you not to use first names. If you are going to name a member, if you could use the last name please. Mr. Netser, you wanted to add something?

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for that. I did not hear myself saying, but my apologies.

My president wants to elaborate a bit more on the question being posed. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In addition to the minister's response, we are also inviting various organizations to do joint outreach and joint engagement in regard to the application process. We have been talking to a number of partners throughout the territory, particularly Inuit organizations that offer things like scholarships and supports for students. We're inviting them to do things like joint outreach. In addition, we are looking at the different programs that may be offered at different times of the year, and we're trying to ensure that and that's included as part of any of our communications and engagement activities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I previously mentioned, it's common practice for post-secondary institutions across Canada to already close their admission deadlines by this point in the year, and for the college to not even start the application process

until June, several months after the close of other institutions, that's a bit of a concern for me. You know, the best and the brightest of our high school graduates this year have already begun the process of filling out applications for the upcoming school year.

I just want to put a recommendation to the minister. I would like to ask the minister to commit to, going forward in future years, if the minister can ensure that this application process begins much sooner and try to move it gradually towards the general practice across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some students start applying in April, and we can commit to the member that we will work diligently to send information packages in terms of when our students who want to go to our college to apply earlier. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on to my next question, in the past it has been identified that the college campuses and community learning centres tend to be underutilized during the evenings and weekends, as well as summer months. Does the minister or the college have any intentions to better utilize our facilities next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that again. He raised it last year. The board of governors is currently reviewing the policies in terms of the facility being used after-hours and after the academic school year.
(interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on to my next question, in relation to the utilities budget, I would like to enquire if the electricity rates are currently being offset by the shiny new solar panels that are installed on the campus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not yet. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those panels, I believe the completion was done quite some time ago.

I apologize. I'm getting a bit tired; I'm having difficulties getting my thoughts out.

When those solar panels are up and running and connected and online, does the college have any idea how much utility costs that it will be able to offset? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are currently working with NRCAN on that particular issue, on those solar panels. I think it's a little bit early to see how much we will be saving in terms of energy when those panels are operable.
(interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my next question, in order to reduce utility costs going forward, does the college intend on replicating this renewable energy program on any other facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We do have some LED lights in some of our campuses and facilities. We certainly want to be energy-wise, like the member has been really pushing the House and everyone else to do. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Any other questions on Corporate Summary? If not, we're going to move to the next page, which is Headquarters. Any questions on the headquarters? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It mentions here that the business service office does all your finance work for the college and in the letter dated January 31

to the committee, on the second page it mentions the lease for the former Arctic Hotel is currently up, which is across the street here, and it says, "Negotiations on the renewed lease are expected in early 2020." We're now in March. Have your lease negotiations gone anywhere? I'm interested in what alternatives the college has to that facility for your student accommodations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're currently working with CGS or Government Services to develop options. Where they would sign the lease, I would like to get the president to elaborate on that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the leases, they both have been extended for the moment and we're working with Community and Government Services to try to explore options going forward for consideration.

To answer the second question on availability, that's something we will have to try to explore actively with Community and Government Services as we try to explore options going forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the information. I think

it's important for the college to have alternatives in mind because just from the negotiating perspective, you don't want to be backed into a corner and then forced into signing something that's not competitive or that's not a good deal for the college. It's good to hear that you're looking at alternatives.

Under the Inuit Employment Plan which is on page NAC-5 of the business plan, I was noticing that you have quite a lot of positions that are categorized as professional positions, 131 professional positions. Are those your instructor positions or what occupations are included in those 131? Obviously I'm not looking for every last occupation, but why are there so many professional positions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The majority of them are instructors. The reason why we have professional staff is because we want to have a professional workforce at the end of the training programs that our students attend. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page NAC-7 it mentions "The College will draft a strategy to actively recruit College alumni into management and professional positions." In the status update it says you're looking to hire a position focused on alumni relations.

This alumni relations position will also be looking at recruitment type of function. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand so. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the page NAC-10, which is under Administration Services, it mentions on page 2 the Rankin Inlet Trade School and then under the status update it mentions the Nunavut Mine Training Strategy and the Nunavut Mine Training Facility in Rankin Inlet.

It's my understanding that at some point the phase 2 of the trade school was heavy equipment and now the status update says mine training. Is this phase 2 of the trade school now heavy equipment and mine training? Are they the same thing or is it simply focused on mine training and the heavy equipment piece is no longer on the radar or part of the project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We announced it last September and it's in its infancy stages, so it's ongoing and what it will have at the end of the day, we will be working with the mining sector and with

the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and Family Services on what the mine training facility will look like at the end of the day. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, it's interesting because at Meadowbank, for example, I believe that 100 percent of the truck drivers and whatnot are Inuit and local hires. What the college chooses to focus on with the mine training centre... It will be interesting to see where you go with that.

Also on the same page, NAC-10, it mentions "Initiate legislative process to update the *Nunavut Arctic College Act*." What areas of the Act have been identified as needing updates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question, I would like to just ask Mr. Suvega to answer that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Parts of the legislation that the board ultimately would like to review are really just going to update the old content and incorporate new ones based on things like consultations or feedback with different partners and stakeholders. We hope to try to submit a future

legislative proposal hopefully within the life of this government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It was mentioned at some point in the recent past that there was a desire or there were ideas about trying to update the Act in order to put more space in between the government and Arctic College and to let Arctic College operate, I'll say, more independently from the government, from political leaders such as us. Is that part of the overall direction that the college is intending to go in terms of updating the Act or are the existing management and governance structures working? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the college is running really smoothly. We have great leadership on staff and they are constantly in contact with our regional offices.

As for the legislation that the member is asking about, I would like my president to elaborate a bit more on it, Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I mean ultimately, I think as an organization, we want to try and build that organizational stability and capability of self-managing and

growing.

At the same time there is always going to be that kind of link to government. I could use our northern neighbours as an example, where there is, even with some sort of independence there are still ties to their governments and organization. There has to be that partnership and collaboration so it is never going to completely hive off, but there will be different states of autonomy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I hope that I am on the right page to ask questions about the trade school.

In the most recent annual report it notes that you have created a new industrial training division and that you have two chairs created under there, the chair of construction trades and the chair of industry training. This is very encouraging to see. It is a great addition. Where is the college with this kind of reorganization in the Industrial Training Division? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to get my president to answer that because we have had some students that studied in Rankin Inlet. I think the pre-trades entrance exam, and so what we want to do is have our students go through classes for levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 and then

get their certification there, and then get their hours working with the industry in terms of getting their proper journeyman status. We want to do it that way, but I would like to get the president to elaborate a bit more on that.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When positions are filled, and we hope that they are going to stay filled for a while, the intent is to try to keep the individuals, with at least one of them, it is currently indeterminately. When we know it is not going to be filled or it is going to be vacated shortly, we try to ensure that there is some not redundancy but at least some backup capability to ensure there are no interruptions in programs or services.

We are always trying to look at ways to have the different parts of the college jointly or share the workload and not just in one specific area. In this way we try to target individuals within the college structure and try to tag them for leadership training or professional development.

I hope that answers the questions.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) You know that program that you ran in Rankin Inlet, which is mentioned on page 19, where you had your apprenticeship students renovating that housing unit, I think that is a really great

first step.

I note that on page 17 you mention fostering partnerships and delivering employment-specific training at the community level in our community learning centres. I think that is something that is long overdue. The trade school in Rankin is great, but those are exactly the type of projects or programs we need to be seeing at the community level as well. Are there any plans for pilot projects, or how soon would you be able to roll out employment-specific training at the community level now that you have this reorganization done? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I usually go through Rankin Inlet on my way home from here in Iqaluit. When I'm in Rankin Inlet, I always go visit the training facility, the on-the-job training work that is happening there, and they were really happy about the program. The people in Rankin Inlet were very proud of the fact that they were doing. We want to expand that in other communities, but there are funding restrictions that we have. I can say that it was a very good program, a good pilot project. (interpretation ends) I think it was a very successful program and certainly going down the road we would like to do more of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just one final question on this...well, I guess two questions; I'll put them into one. Are both of these chair positions located in Rankin Inlet or what communities are they located in? When it comes to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which I noted was one of the industry partners listed, are there any specific plans for programs to be rolled out with the Qulliq Energy Corporation around the trades? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're both located in Rankin Inlet and we're looking at the particular question that the member is asking about. We're looking into that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this point it's just very early stage discussion with Qulliq Energy, or are there any plans for an apprenticeship boot camp type position? I apologize if it's a question better asked to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, but they don't appear in front of us like the college does, so I'll ask it here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the ten-year strategic consultations, which the board currently should be going out through Nunavut,

whether it's in there, I don't know, but if there's an interest out there, then we can certainly look at introducing some kind of program like that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions on headquarters? If not, we're going to move on to the Nunavut Research Institute. They've got a small budget. Does anybody have any questions? If not, we will just continue going on. Regional Campuses. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On O-I-3, which we almost passed, and if it's not here, please let me know. Yesterday I had a question with the Minister of Education and I was told that it falls to the Nunavut Research Institute. Yesterday I had a question about scientists and they go to all parts of the world to get input. I would like to know what kinds of programs you have under Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have science programs, but the chairpersons consult with the communities about what types of programs they would like to see within our organization. It's not too late to make a suggestion through our website and see if there are any programs available for science projects. It could be considered by departments should there be an interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser.

Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our elders are our scientists and I was also thinking about the elders and if they go all over the world, they could learn a lot of things outside of Nunavut. Do you have any plans to include elders? They are scientists and professors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We utilize elders quite a bit at Nunavut Arctic College and we are looking at providing programs to enhance their teachings of our culture and language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see scientists from the south coming to our communities, not on annual basis but in some years, to learn about the Inuit culture and knowledge. I don't think we have people going out or people of Nunavut going out to the world to learn more about their culture, their practices, and so on. Would you consider having that type of program? It is more of a comment than a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser, did you want to comment on that? No, we will just move on. Okay. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I do not have too many questions on this one.

On the Arviat office, which at one point I believe it was called the headquarters office, it is now lumped in with the Kivalliq regional campus. What is the staffing situation of that Arviat office for the college? I am just interested in the number of positions and vacancies. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this question to the person on my right, if you would allow that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega. Oh sorry, that's your left. Mr. Parungao.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Parungao: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently we have 15 positions in Arviat office. Seven full-time employees are filled, so we have eight unfilled positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Has the provision of staff housing been at all an issue in terms of trying to fill those positions? Yeah, we just finished with the housing corporation, so maybe that is why I am interested in staff housing right now.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Main.
Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of that question at all, so I would like...Mr. Parungao has that answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. I have no idea what you just said because it didn't come through translation properly. If you could repeat that, please. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the answer to the question in terms of staff housing. I believe Mr. Parungao has that answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Parungao.

Mr. Parungao: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's actually no housing issue in Arviat. The problem is we have opened the position several times and there were no applicants at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just encourage the college not to give up and continue trying to recruit people until those positions... . That office does excellent work and they are always very welcoming to me personally, so I would appreciate it.

When it comes to Adult Basic Education, which is under this budget item, the total on this page that we're looking at is \$50.7 million. How much of this \$50.7 million will be going towards adult basic education programs? The reason I ask is it is my

understanding that getting steady funding or enough funding for basic education programs has been an issue in the past. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.
Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Parungao has the breakdown on that particular breakdown for the breakdown the member is asking. Bear with us for a minute.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Parungao.

Mr. Parungao: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$15 million of the \$50 million budget has been allocated to community learning centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's going towards the community learning centres. Can you identify how much is earmarked for adult basic education programs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.
Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's \$6 million over a three-year agreement. It was received in December 2017. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When I go to page 14 in your business

plan in this current fiscal year you were looking for alternative funding for adult basic education and under the status update it says basically you couldn't find any additional funding and it continues to be base funded. Why is it so hard for Arctic College to find more money for basic education? It's my understanding that the college is very good at finding third party funds for different programs and you leverage your core funding. What is it about basic education that makes it so hard to find external funding for it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still trying to leverage more funding from the federal government. As to why it is so hard to find funding for the particular program, I would like Mr. Suvega to elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of trying to find stable funding, I think it's just the sheer amount of competition we have for different types of funding, but this is one where I think the three northern colleges spoke in unity and tried to meet with Government of Canada officials for continued and enhanced funding. We're still kind of waiting for a response on what future funding might entail and what program enhancements might entail. We do need to follow up very quickly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I could help you because adult basic education... (interpretation ends) There's a real deficit in our adult basic education programs and I hope that you can find more funding. If you need anybody to write a couple of letters to the federal government, let me know, not that they would listen anyway, but you can hope.

Just a couple of more questions, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to tuitions that you charge your students, I noted in your financial statements, tuition was about \$1.1 million in 2018-19. How do your tuition amounts work? Is it geared to income or is it just a flat rate and when was the last time you reviewed your tuition rates for your courses? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an operational question, so I'm asking Mr. Suvega to elaborate on that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of rates, they're broken down by things like resource materials, student fees, tuition fees. The last time the tuitions were reviewed, I believe, was in 2010 and the board did review it recently and implemented some updates and some changes to tuitions. We try to communicate regularly with different

funders, particularly government departments that provide student financial assistance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just one more question on tuition, are there any classes of students that you have... ? You could have a student that just came out of high school and is applying for a program, and then you could have another student who is, let's say, "Maybe I'm worth a million dollars," and then I go and apply for a program and the college is heavily subsidized by the government, all the programs are subsidized and we do that. In that example, would the student out of high school and the millionaire pay the exact same tuition or is there a different ranking or rating on that one? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a hypothetical question, so I can't answer that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll ask it in a different way, I guess. Are there ways in which tuition is geared to income or are there different classes under which students are categorized where their tuition is different or is it just one flat tuition no matter who the student is, no matter what their personal

wealth situation is? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All students at Arctic College are considered as one. They're not grouped into any sections or subsections. We want to ensure that all students excel, so that's why we support them all equally. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On pages 16 and 17 of your business plan, and 18, it's the education careers and it mentions on your status update that there are nine communities, including Arviat, where Nunavut teacher education is being delivered. How many potential teachers do you have enrolled in all those programs together? I might have asked this to the Department of Education, but I can't remember what the number is. (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, as he mentioned, there are community learning centres and they are learning and have been taking part in courses this past fall and winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. The nurses training on page 19,

(interpretation ends) it mentions “Draft strategy for blended delivery model of Pre-Nursing program in the communities.” I mean, that’s a priority for this year to draft a strategy. The Pre-Nursing Program, is that a one-year program? Does that mean the whole Nursing Program would be delivered at a community level? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In February 2019 we will see the final report of the review by the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. This program has been granted a three-year approval. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Where will the program be delivered, in which communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is based in Iqaluit right now for the nurses’ training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is identified in your plan under your priorities. It says (interpretation ends) “Draft strategy

for...delivery in the communities.” (interpretation) When I read it, it says that it is going to be anticipated beyond Iqaluit, maybe in a community somewhere else, but that you will deliver that program. I’m not sure if I understood it right according to your business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still in the process of planning this. We are going to expect to see that and anticipate that at some time down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I support this initiative that is in your priorities. I support that myself because we do need more nurses, and nurses that can be trained in Nunavut. I support that. (interpretation ends) I have no further questions. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If I make a mistake, you can let me know.

(interpretation ends) In your budget, when it comes to oral history projects, you have for the fiscal year, \$293,000. Why has this not been changed for quite a while or quite some time? Why is that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you and thank you for that. The issue has been that we have to find funding for that. That is why it has been stagnant. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) I may have referred my next question with regard to *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit*.

Mr. Qirngnuq asked about these elders that would have knowledge, for example, one example, weather. When it comes to collecting Inuit knowledge and you have this budget, \$293, 000, and the organization would like to put in our communities first by offering local skills. For the next fiscal year, will this budget be increased or will it remain the same? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be nice to have an increase, and we do cherish our traditional knowledge by our elders, but it would be nice to have that increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if an increase could occur. It is one of my constituent communities, with the Igloolik oral history research centre there and so that their efforts and their works, they are experts in traditional knowledge. (interpretation ends) They are also

scientists when it comes to these matters.

(interpretation) I will also ask, Mr. Chairman, also on page 11, (interpretation ends) "Evaluate Elder-in-residence pilot and begin development of similar programs, in all Nunavut Arctic College Campuses." On the status part, this was a pilot program and it was considered a success. Does that mean the organization is thinking to expand this to smaller communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the president to answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would love to expand this to communities and we are beginning with our campuses at the moment, so we are trying to assess to see where some of the full-time resources could come.

In other areas where elders are incorporated into program curriculum or delivery, I could use one example, the Environmental Technology Program. You spoke a little bit about things like teaching students about weather, climate, and the environment. Elders are actively incorporated into that sort of program delivery directly with students, and we do it with other program areas as well.

Even non-traditional academic programs that may have not included elders in the past are starting to include elders a lot more as curriculum starts to get reviewed and adjusted based on demand

and/or feedback direct from communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you saying that you are going to introduce something like this in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Chairman, we cannot make any promises, but we can certainly give it a good try. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will push you to and encourage you to do that to relaunch this.

Also, on the same page, Arctic College wants to ensure that the language programs like the one in Igloolik continue in 2020-21. If it is going to proceed, is it going to be in Sanirajak or Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're thinking of Coral Harbour or Naujaat. I'm just kidding. Please wait a moment.

As for the location, we have not identified it. Mr. Chairman, we want to incorporate it into the college programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's going to be the overall program, is that going to be for the next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): It has already begun, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has already started. My final question will be: (interpretation ends) when it comes to these principles, "Nunavut Arctic College's principles serve as guideposts" or these, "Respects and honors Inuktitut and culture" and involves elders and they're an integral part of our college. Also, the college would like to continue to seek to expansion of options and when I say options, these local skills in my example was that they're experts when it comes to these knowledgeable people.

I would like to encourage Arctic College to have an increase to the budget with the oral history project in Igloolik. I would like to see that expand more. Is that organization willing to expand this project when it comes to our oral history? (interpretation) That is my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) "In this business

plan, the College has identified many areas for program growth and development. In keeping with the College's Taxonomy, a special emphasis on the elements of Inuktitut, Culture, Entrepreneurship - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, will guide the development of these future programs. Having Inuit employees be part of this growth and development will positively aid in meeting the goals outlined in the Taxonomy." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak, you had a question? Please go ahead.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

In your business plan, NAC-11, the college funding for language programs, including interpreter/translator diplomas, has not increased significantly in a number of years. Given the ongoing need for trained and certified language specialists across the government, what steps are being taken to recruit learners and expand the delivery of Inuit language programming across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We consult with the communities and we meet with elders on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you clarify if you have met with my community and the elders

specifically in regard to the Inuinnaqtun language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Sometimes we meet. I don't know if they have been to Kugluktuk yet. I haven't heard of that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have any plans on meeting with my community and the elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can go up there and the board members of the college were doing a consultation tour of the communities. They visited three communities in the Kitikmeot. I just don't know which communities they were, but as I said, we're still looking for what programs are needed through our website. If they can go to the website (interpretation ends) and put in their case, we certainly can look at that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. The college's business plan indicates that the college delivered Inuktitut as a second language course to five decentralized communities in 2019-2020. In which communities were these courses delivered and were all the students government employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. There are five communities that we worked in. Rankin Inlet and Pond Inlet are the only ones we know about, but I can get back to the member on which the other three communities are. I can't recall which ones they were. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the college be delivering Inuktitut language courses to any communities outside the regional centres in 2020-21 and, if so, which communities will see the programs offered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bear with me. (interpretation) Thank you. Please wait a moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now they're holding it in Iqaluit, but our goal is to offer it in other communities, on the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Still on your page of your business plan, NAC-11, it says third party contracts. The college has partnered with the University of Victoria for the purpose of language revitalization with a focus on Inuinnaqtun. Anyway, has the college looked into alternating this program to offering this in Kugluktuk? To me this would be an excellent way to get more students to participate in this very

important program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a five-year academic plan and we will certainly look at introducing a program like that in the member's community. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for your response. Moving on, the college's fur program was relaunched in 2019-2020. The business plan indicates that the college will explore options to expand the program in 2020-21. What kinds of options will be considered for expansion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is quite detailed and I ask, through you, my president could answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This actually came about as a question from our board in a different way and it was related to the member's previous questions around the use of community learning centres. We are exploring options right now with different partners. Some could be with government, some outside of government. If there are different needs or requests coming forward, we're trying to find different funding partners that could generate and create new programs in different

communities. It will just depend on which programs and partnerships kind of come into place to help make these programs happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions. The adult educators in the communities meet annually and they collect information on the needs of the community or what courses they want to see in the community in the future. How are they reviewed when they reach the offices? Do you look at the community needs when you see them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy can respond if you will allow him. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff and the adult educators in the communities, we assess them every year with the community learning assessments. We use that. Communities are asked on an annual basis what they want to see and what is important. Sometimes funding is a barrier, but we are still looking for new partners to introduce new programs for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the

information is collected, do you start to plan? For example, they want this in Pangnirtung or they want the same training program in Pond Inlet, and over in Rankin Inlet. I'm just using those as an example, but if they are asking for the same programs, do you start planning for them in the community learning centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): As I stated earlier on the ten-year academic strategic plan, they are consulting with the communities. The board of governors are visiting the communities right now and they are collecting information. I think they visited nine communities in the Baffin. We want to hear from them and through you, we would like to learn what program needs are in the communities. When we know what programs are needed in our communities, it takes a while to plan it. Perhaps when we hear of what programs they want offered in December, we start planning the following month for adult learners. Perhaps I responded in a good way, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I am moving on to something else. Those who were here, the students who are in the Social Work Program, they are in year 2 of the program. In your plan for the social work students, do you know which first year courses will be held or will that carry on in Cambridge Bay? The one in Iqaluit for the second year, is it going to carry on in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. The social worker training is continuing now in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. They may have to move to Rankin Inlet. I don't know exactly why, but the program may have to move to Rankin Inlet and the president can explain why. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes training programs are moved to another community so that other communities can take part. After it is completed here, the program will be moved to Rankin Inlet for a while. Following what we have heard from the communities, we will plan to move these programs to various communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. Some departments provide funding for training. For example, income support has the G.R.E.A.T program where Family Services provides funding and the social worker program is probably funded by them too. In 2020-21, how many departments have requested for training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with (interpretation ends) Family Services (interpretation) on that. This

winter, 2019-2020, there were 12 people taking the course in Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you done, Ms. Nakashuk? Okay. Thank you. I don't have any other names, so I will ask members to go page N-3. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$39,019,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Netser, do you have any closing comments? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much that you have passed our request for the money that we will need. All of the things that we need to get back to you, we will get back to you with. Thank you.

The person on my left, Marcello, is planning to move on somewhere else, but we don't want to lose him. Unfortunately he is going to be moving on. He is an excellent worker and Nunavut Arctic College is going to miss him a great deal because he works so hard helping the college and the students. He really helps the students and he is probably irreplaceable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Netser. On behalf of the committee, I thank you

and your staff for being here to answer our questions today. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Consideration in Committee

I will now ask members to go your white legislative binder that's below your desk. If you go to tab 39, you will find Bill 39.

Bill 39, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2021. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$1,816,711,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 39 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 39 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 39 and would like to report that Bill 39 is concluded and is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Hickes.

>>Laughter

(interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

(interpretation) Let's proceed. 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance.

>>Laughter

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 39, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 39 is ready for assent.

22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 12:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 40
 - Bill 41
 - Bill 42
 - Bill 43
 - Tabled Document 65 – 5(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 62 – 5(2), this House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:21*

