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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Immigration

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Eruk Pauloosie

(Nattilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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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
Thursday, June 11, 2009**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Have a very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Thank you, Iqalumiut, for always making us feel welcome in your community.

Going to Item 2 in the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Curley.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 021 – 3(2):
Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program
Graduate**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate Harry Niakrok of Rankin Inlet for successfully completing a three-year on-the-job training program.

Harry was appointed on May 15, 2009, as the Kivalliq Regional Director for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, Harry was a participant of the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program, which is funded by the Department of Human Resources. This program provides opportunity for Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries to develop in leadership positions within the government.

Mr. Speaker, mentorship is an integral part of any on-the-job training experience, including Sivuliqtiksat. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Norm Hatlevik of the Department of Health and Social Services for all of his time, effort, and expertise provided to Harry throughout his internship. His commitment to continuous learning and the department is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, Harry undertook a challenging training program as an intern and he has an even more challenging job ahead of him as regional director within a very large and complex department. I am confident that Harry will rise to the challenge and provide experienced professional leadership in the Kivalliq region.

Mr. Speaker, internships are an excellent way to increase beneficiary representation in our workforce and Nunavutmiut can be proud of Harry Niakrok, who was born and raised in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 022 – 3(2):
Nunavut Arctic College Graduate
Lucy Idlout Receives Governor
General's Award of Academic
Excellence**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1873, Lord Dufferin created the Governor General's Academic Medals to encourage academic excellence across the nation. Over the years, they have become the most prestigious award that students in Canadian schools can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to inform the Hon. Members of this Assembly that on May 31, Ms. Lucy Idlout was awarded the Governor General's Award for Academic Excellence. Ms. Idlout graduated from the Nunavut Arctic College hairdressing program in 2008. As a successful young entrepreneur, she currently operates her own hairstyling studio.

As a two-time national silver medalist in hairdressing at the Canadian Skills Competition with Skills Canada, she has consistently proven her abilities as one of the top hairdressing students in our country. Even though she's graduated, she continues to volunteer her time as a role model teaching her skilled trade to hairdressing students with Skills Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Lucy received her medal from Her Excellency, the Right Hon. Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, during her recent visit to Nunavut. We are very proud of her.

Please join me in extending our congratulations to Ms. Lucy Idlout for her outstanding accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Premier of Nunavut, Ms. Eva Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 023 – 3(2):
Report Card Project**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues and all Nunavummiut about the progress of the 'Qanukkanniq?' Report Card project.

This government committed to completing a report card on government programs and services to understand what is working well, what needs improvement, and what is not working at all. These findings will help to guide the development of this government, including starting changes to government programs and services over the coming years to better serve Nunavut.

The external reviewers, which include Nunavummiut, are well experienced in government operations, public policy development, and particularly in the public consultation process required to ensure the success of this project.

I am pleased to report that community consultations have begun this week to meet with members of the public, Government of Nunavut employees, Inuit organizations, and other stakeholder groups in Nunavut.

To encourage open discussion, all submissions will be confidential and no names will be included in the reports. Over the coming months, Nunavummiut will have opportunities to participate through a 1-800 telephone number, through written questionnaires, online surveys, through community radio, and through community meetings.

I appreciate that Members of this House have agreed to help spread the message to their constituents about this important exercise.

The report card will be completed by October 1, 2009. At the conclusion of the report card, I will invite all Members of the Legislative Assembly to review the findings so that they may help guide the future direction of this government.

The report will inform our discussions on an action plan which will complete this government's mandate under *Tamapta*: Building our future together. While we cannot do everything, by listening to Nunavummiut and working together with them, we will be able to make progress toward achieving our vision for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my statement by thanking my colleagues for their participation in this important work. I look forward to working with them to ensure that our work for a vibrant future for Nunavut is positive and effective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tagak Curley.

Minister's Statement 024 – 3(2): Day Hospital Programs in Kitikmeot and Kivalliq Regions

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to inform my colleagues that both the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq regional health facilities have expanded medical services to include day hospital programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of Nunavutmiut by providing the best possible care at all times.

Mr. Speaker, our day hospital programs allow for treatment and observation of patients who require a stay at the health centre for periods longer than can normally be accommodated in the clinic. Patients admitted to a day hospital are assessed throughout their stay to determine whether plans will be made for a medical evacuation or a return to their home.

I can say today that on April 1, 2009, services at the Kitikmeot Regional Health Facility were expanded to accommodate a day hospital program, operating Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. There have been 35 admissions since the opening and we believe that at least one medical evacuation has been avoided by having this extended service available.

Mr. Speaker, the day hospital program in the Kivalliq Health Regional Facility opened on May 19, 2008, ahead of schedule and we are confident that it has reduced the cost of medical travel by providing a longer monitoring period in

a safe and controlled setting in some low-risk situations.

We are in the process of increasing the staff complement to accommodate the high demands of the day hospital program and will continue to build the capacity of our regional health facilities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 025 – 3(2):
Improvements to the Young
Parents Stay Learning Program**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. I say "hello" to the residents Igloolik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of recent improvements to the Young Parents Stay Learning program. This program is geared towards helping full-time students with the cost of child care while they continue their education.

The Department of Education has expanded this program so that all students, not just those under the age of 18, in elementary, middle, or high school who need child care are eligible. The program will now also cover unlicensed care when licensed care is not available. Students under the age of 18 who are attending post-secondary education courses here in Nunavut will also be eligible for the Young Parents Stay Learning program.

Mr. Speaker, these improvements will allow Nunavut's young parents to stay the course of their education without having to apply for social assistance. I hope that young parents will take advantage of this opportunity and make completing their schooling a reality.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is committed to offering programs that remove barriers and allow Nunavummiut to access the educational possibilities available to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Going to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 032 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Graduates of Atagoyuk High School in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's perfect timing as I wanted to make my statement right after the Minister of Education.

I rise in this House today to inform my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and my fellow community members that there were quite a number of graduates from the Atagoyuk High School for the 2008-09 school year in Pangnirtung.

I received correspondence related to this matter today and there will be 16 graduates on June 19. The graduation rate was 75 percent and it has been mentioned that it has been at 25 percent

throughout Nunavut. Looking at Nunavut as a whole, it's evident that the drop-out rate is decreasing. There are some factors that have allowed students to continue their education.

One of the biggest reasons for this success is our daycare centre at the high school. It keeps young parents in school and they have their children taken care of by the daycare centre. This has been very beneficial to our community and to young parents who wish to stay in school. I urge that this daycare system be adopted everywhere so that our children can complete high school as it has been proven today.

I also wanted to acknowledge the parents and families who helped get those students up in the morning, which probably caused difficulties to some. At most graduation ceremonies, many graduates make reference to the fact that their graduation was a result of their parents waking them up in the morning to get ready for school. Parents reciprocate stating that they will no longer have to wake up that child for school. That is if they don't enter courses requiring their attendance in the mornings.

Even so, we encourage all students to stay in school and to complete their education in order to graduate. We have observed over the years that Nunavut still lacks its own educated people in professions such as nurses, doctors, and accountants, so we urge Nunavummiut to continue their education so that they can take on these professions.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the graduates as we are very proud of them and the young people's names are: Lucy

Akpalialuk, Annie Akulujuk, Clara Akulujuk, Joshua Alivaktuk, Jennifer Angmarlik, Stanley Atagoyuk, Matthew Dialla, Patrick Evic, Joy Joanasié, Aksayok Kilabuk, Donna Kilabuk, Daniel Mike, Gina-Mary Mike, Meghan Mike, Tina Tautuajuk, and Cole Winsor. Those are the graduates.

The teachers...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Komoartok, your time is up. If you wish to conclude your statement, you must ask for unanimous consent. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): I don't have much left to say, so I would like to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you for allowing me to conclude my statement.

I would like to thank the teachers in both the elementary school and the high school, particularly the teachers who take the students out on the land to teach Inuit customs and skills. This has helped a lot of students stay in school. So I thank you very much for allowing me to complete my statement, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members'

Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 033 – 3(2):
Nunavummiut with Disabilities
Lack Support**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to once again urge the government to take a stronger stand in addressing the needs for people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the answers received from the Minister of Health and Social Services in regard to the issue of people with disabilities are not being taken seriously. The government's own vision statement, *Tamapta*, speaks of helping those Nunavummiut who are most at need. Mr. Speaker, I just don't see it.

Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut with disabilities continue to struggle on a daily basis to have their basic needs met. I am finding, in speaking with many Nunavummiut, that there is no places for them seek advice, assistance, or support. There is no place to share their concerns, no network of support, and there is no means for having their concerns addressed. In many regards, they must feel really lonely and isolated.

They and their families need professional care and professional support in order to be able to live their daily lives without unnecessary difficulties and barriers. Mr. Speaker, I continue to raise questions in the House in this regard but seem to be not getting anywhere.

The Nunavut Disabilities Society seems to have their hands tied. They are unable to properly service the needs of people

in Nunavut with disabilities because they are not given the proper resources to do this.

In this fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services' budget included a contribution agreement of \$90,000 for the disability society. This figure has remained the same since the inception of the organization back in 1998.

I find it alarming that as we sit through our O&M deliberations, we hear the ministers continually saying that they are increasing their budgets annually because they need more PYs to meet their demands and they need more resources to do their jobs effectively.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, they expect this non-profit organization to continue to work within a budget that was sufficient back in 1998. I wonder if any of our government departments could effectively operate under such restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to individuals in wheelchairs, there are regulations that buildings within the Government of Nunavut have to comply with and there are laws for wheelchair access. In homes, people are given money through the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make their homes wheelchair accessible.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I seek unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for allowing me to continue on with something that I continue to talk about daily.

We have these laws in place and at the same time, the Nunavut Housing Corporation provides funding for different things, such as wheelchair ramps and lowering of cupboards and whatnot, yet, these people are confined to their homes 24/7. There is no way for them to get from their homes to these locations that the requirements allow them to be built. So I'm wondering why that's allowed to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Premier, the Minister of Health and Social Services, and the Minister of Education in this government to look at how we provide services to our residents with disabilities. Attention to this issue is urgently needed.

All Nunavummiut should have the ability to participate in society equally without any unnecessary barriers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 034 – 3(2):
Funding for Sports in Nunavut**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Repulse Bay, I met with the recreation committee because they had requested to meet with me. I also talked to a recreation coordinator in Kugaaruk.

As you all know, here in Nunavut, we send athletes out for sports to other communities and I believe that we are all aware that there's always a shortage of funding, especially in smaller communities. They lack funds at the community level, so they have requested further support from the Government of Nunavut for athletes to play hockey, volleyball, or other games in the regions.

No wonder, Mr. Speaker, when they play sports during celebrations like Christmas and other events such as spring festivals, they lack funds to purchase prizes, awards, and to also pay for community feasts, especially in smaller communities where they have little opportunity to raise funds.

I will be asking a question to the minister responsible at the appropriate time once I have found out further about which minister is responsible. I will be asking about financial support for residents of smaller communities, especially for recreation coordinators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 035 – 3(2):
Lorne Kusugak's Boston Bruins
Necktie**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the lighter side of things, I wish to rise today and acknowledge my colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House and all Nunavut watching today on TV

the excellent taste in ties that Mr. Kusugak wears.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, today you will notice he is wearing a beautiful Boston Bruins tie. This is a direct result of the Boston Bruins beating his beloved Montreal Canadiens in this year's Stanley Cup playoffs.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that this tie was not easy to acquire and after many attempts, mostly because these ties seem to be sold out across North America because of its demand, it was finally acquired directly from the Boston Bruins organization and I am grateful for them helping me with this request.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. minister for honouring his side of our agreement and wearing this beautiful tie today. And I expect to see him wearing it in our spring session next year. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 036 – 3(2):
Canadian High Commission;
Arctic Obsession**

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently travelled to London, England, as a guest of the Greenwich Maritime Museum. They sponsored an exhibition on the Northwest Passage

failed expedition titled "Arctic Obsession." Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say on this but it can wait because the "Arctic Obsession" continues.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the Canadian High Commission for all of the arrangements that they had made for the events; there were a number of events. They also organized specific events for me to speak about Nunavutmiut, the global warming issues that we are facing, as well as the many challenges that we face as a new government during the last ten years. So it was not only one event, Mr. Speaker.

I want to just say here, Mr. Speaker, that I was so grateful for the Canadian High Commission officials, particularly Mr. James Wright, the Canadian High Commissioner, who made his services to his staff available to me and my daughter, who joined me in London.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members here to contact the Canadian Embassy if they're ever in London because the service that is provided by the Canadian officials is excellent and they will make your stay a very pleasant one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 037 – 3(2):
Jordin Tootoo**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation)

ends) I would much rather be wearing a Nashville Predators tie today.

>>*Laughter*

Having said that, I would like to wish Mr. Jordin Tootoo, our hockey hero in Nunavut, a pleasant holiday in his home community of Rankin Inlet and I hope he is enjoying the beautiful spring we have.

I appreciate all of the effort and work Mr. Tootoo puts into helping and supporting youth in our community and throughout Nunavut. He has been very busy working with the children at home and giving them awards during school award ceremonies. He is often surrounded by kids and he always has time for them, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for doing that.

Unfortunately, my Montreal Canadiens picked this year to lose to the Boston Bruins and therefore, I have to wear this tie. I am hoping that next year, my colleague over to my right from Arviat will be wearing a beautiful Montreal Canadiens tie.

But after I put this on, I realized, Mr. Speaker, that the Boston Bruins did deserve to win the first round of the playoffs, but I know now, having put this on, how they felt during round two of the playoffs because right now, Mr. Speaker, I am choking. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Eva Aariak.

**Member's Statement 038 – 3(2):
Nunavut Arctic College Graduates
of 2009**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all the people in my riding.

Yesterday, I was invited to the Nunavut Arctic College graduation ceremonies. I was quite proud and very pleased to see that many graduates. I saw students getting diplomas for nursing, teaching, especially the Fur Production and Design students who took the two-year course, including my daughter, who also graduated from that program.

This is a new program that was introduced to teach Inuit culture and also contemporary styles together with our traditional sewing customs. It's something that instils pride in people. It also shows the Inuit culture and traditions along with contemporary styles being melded together to create unique garments.

It's an honour to see people completing their education. I would also like to congratulate the teachers who graduated from Arctic Bay and there will be another teacher graduation event in Igloolik. They are going to increase the number of Inuit teachers in Nunavut, which is what we want to see.

I urge the people of Iqaluit and also Nunavummiut to apply for those courses as they are starting again in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Members' Statements. If there are no more, we will go to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Curley.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 001 – 3(2):
Health Care Concerns in Akulliq**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question 001 – 3(2) regarding health care concerns in Akulliq.

On June 4, 2009, the Hon. Member for Akulliq, John Ningark, described a situation concerning two of his constituents from Kugaaruk who were diagnosed and received medical care elsewhere in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the member provided me with additional details regarding this matter and today, I would like to advise the House that my department has conducted a review. I am issuing correspondence directly to the member on the outcome of this review.

As this matter deals with the personal health information of two Nunavut residents, I will not be providing any further information in the House with regard to the member's question, but the member will be able to peruse that information in the correspondence I have sent him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Curley.

**Return to Oral Question 012 – 3(2):
H1N1 Flu Virus**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): And again, this is a Return to Oral Question 012 – 3(2) regarding the H1N1 flu virus.

On June 5, 2009, the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt, asked if there had been an increase in flu-like symptoms in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with our Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Isaac Sobol, and have been advised that several communities in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions are experiencing significant outbreaks of the flu.

Mr. Speaker, the member also posed a question regarding suspected cases of the H1N1 flu virus. I want to take this opportunity to inform the member and the House that with regard to reporting cases of the H1N1 flu virus, the Department of Health and Social Services will continue its practice of reporting laboratory confirmed cases of H1N1 only. Citing suspected cases is purely speculation and does not necessarily give an accurate picture.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure members and all Nunavutmiut that my department is closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize three people here with us. The first one I will start off with is my daughter, Teia, who is paging on your right. She is playing in a soccer tournament and her foot is sore this morning, so if she is a little slow getting to you, that's why.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Carol Tootoo sitting in the Gallery. Along with her is her sister, Verna, who is up visiting from Saskatchewan. It was a surprise to me when she walked in the door because I haven't seen her for years and I didn't recognize her, but I would just like to take this opportunity to welcome her to Iqaluit and welcome her to Nunavut.

If Pete Chartier is watching down in Buffalo Narrows, he will be a little surprised to hear that as well as he is someone who always watches the proceedings here.

I would just like to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, there were some graduates from the fur program and I would like to recognize one of the graduates. Carol Tootoo was in the Fur Production and

Design Program at Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going to Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 054 – 3(2): Telehandler Purchase

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one for the housing minister and it's in regard to yesterday's questioning.

He did give me a page here, I haven't got it here right now, but he did agree that both tenders were for 22 units. When you look at the prices, the New Holland one was a bit cheaper. But I've got to tell you that there's a difference. One is a piece of farm equipment and the other one is industrial equipment.

If you look at the differences, the Toromont CAT has outriggers, which is a cost of \$9,000, it has a lift kit on it, which is not included in the New Holland, which is \$5,000, and if you take the NNI Policy into account, that's another \$4,000, so the CAT would have been \$1,000 cheaper.

If you're just like me going down south and going to a Volkswagen and a Porsche dealership, I would come back bragging to my friends that I got a good deal on a Volkswagen. So my question is: who did the evaluation of the two bids to determine which is the better deal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the Housing Corporation determined was that they needed a piece of equipment to do a certain job. What was looked for was asked for. Like I said yesterday, there was a request for quotations to four manufacturers, one being CAT and the other one being New Holland, a Kubota dealer and a Case dealer.

The member, as he had indicated, said he got a good deal on a Volkswagen. Mr. Speaker, after receiving the submissions from both the New Holland dealer and the CAT dealer, it was determined that both pieces of equipment are capable of performing the duties and the needs that they were required to do.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure as the member, as an astute businessman, would say, if you have two pieces of equipment that will both do the job for you that you need to do, why spend \$60,000-some more for a piece of equipment if you have the opportunity to purchase a piece of equipment for less money that will perform the work that's required of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the hon. member here keeps on telling me that New Holland doesn't need outriggers on it because it's self-balancing and everything, but I'm sure he hasn't checked with workers'

compensation to see if that's the case with industrial equipment.

There are different rules for farm equipment than there is for industrial equipment. And if you put somebody in a basket and lift them up, I'm sure that workers' compensation would have something to say if you have a unit without outriggers. Number one, when you tally it all up, CAT was the better deal with the added equipment in there.

Number two, I asked and there's even an article in here in the quote here and it says right on the bottom of this farm equipment, "I hereby certify that I am engaged in the business of farming and that the goods shown on the invoice will be used exclusively in the conduct of business." I know what it's there for because farmers get a special rebate on farm equipment.

But it's quite obvious that this company deals with farmers, not with commercial equipment. So what my question is: who did the evaluation? Somebody had to at housing or somewhere to determine which the better deal is. Who did the final evaluation to determine that New Holland was the right equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can find out exactly who did that, but I just want to assure the member that... he keeps referring to these different pieces of equipment that are standard and part of the CAT piece of equipment. I know he is fully aware of the capabilities of that piece of

equipment as I believe he owns one in Cape Dorset.

The reason that the New Holland equipment or zoom boom doesn't require those outriggers is because it has a lower centre of gravity and because that is not required. And also, Mr. Speaker, he referred to the bucket going up with somebody being in there. The New Holland equipment, as far as I'm aware, has a self-adjusting bucket.

So with the CAT telehandler, or zoom boom, or whatever name you want to call it, the reason they need this thing in order to extend the bucket on that piece of equipment is the entire machine has to be levelled off, so it can't operate on a bit of a slant. The bucket can't adjust if it's going out, it only goes out straight.

With the New Holland equipment, if it's sitting on a little bit of an angle, the bucket can be sent out and it's got a self-adjusting bucket so that it does go out straight. So that was one of the factors too that was looked at in there.

But as for his particular question, I'm sure it was more than one person or at least two people involved in that. I'll find out exactly because I don't want to give him any bad information. I'll make sure I find out and provide that information to him on exactly who did the evaluations on the equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's quite obvious that they don't have a clue what the differences in the two pieces of equipment are. I do have a

CAT telehandler and I can tell you that it has the same feature that levels and you don't need the outriggers to level it.

The reason you have the outriggers is for stability when you boom out with people in it. And I can just about guarantee that if you went to workers' compensation, you would have an issue of using that New Holland piece of equipment with no outriggers on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. I didn't hear a question there but thank you, Mr. Schell. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 055 – 3(2): \$2 Million Training Fund

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

Yesterday, in our deliberations during the Committee of the Whole, he was explaining how there was money from different PYs over a couple of years which added up to \$2 million that was then being transferred into training.

Is it a common practice within the government to take PYs that are supposed to be put into paying employees and then resurfacing it into some other type of activity in terms of training? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that

question. Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows, in the last several years, there has been a capacity issue in the Government of Nunavut. In most departments, our staffing is anywhere between 70 and 85 percent.

The Department of Finance's average is in the 70 to 80 percent range with indeterminate, term, casual, and contract employees. So we determined that funding of 20 percent, there is some room there. So what we did is budget to actual. It's not a common practice but it's something we encourage.

So we used the extra funds to move around in the government. In this case, we decided to fund the human resource strategy and we worked on it with the Department of Human Resources to use those funds to train Government of Nunavut employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the minister doesn't get me wrong because I think it's a great idea that we're actually training and mentoring people and trying to have more Inuit employment to try and solve some of our capacity problems.

In terms what he said, I just wanted to understand if I heard him properly. He said that it's not a practice but it's encouraged. Is that what the minister said? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that

question. We're taking the lead on the initiative this year. As the Department of Finance, we obviously don't tell the other ministers what they can or should do with their funding.

We recognize that it's probably going to be impossible to fund 100 percent of the positions in our department, so why leave that funding available? So we will use the extra funding and move it elsewhere in the government for important initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the minister for that answer. I still feel I'm trying to learn my role as an MLA and I think my job on this side is to hold the government accountable for what they're doing.

Again, I support training in the sense that I feel we should have more mentoring programs and maybe that's what we're going to find out with the Auditor General's report - Human Resources needs to look at how they do their business or restructuring.

On my side of the House, as a regular MLA, when I'm looking at PYs being increased across the board for most positions when we're doing O&M, I find concerns in the sense that I'm approving money for people to be hired.

If it's money that's going to be used for training, maybe it should be separated instead. We realize that there is a problem, we need training and we need capacity. This is going to be set aside for training.

As regular MLAs, we can actually do our job in a sense that this money is allocated for training, not for positions. With the increase of PYs, is there an intention that there's possibly going to be more training coming about through different departments? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I follow the logic of Mr. Elliott, but as I said earlier, it's recognized that there's going to be a capacity issue in the government. We recognize that.

So we need to train people to move around in the government, give them training to move them up in the government, open up entry level positions, and move people throughout the system. Some departments will staff to full capacity using casuals, term and indeterminate employees.

The Department of Finance recognizes that we can't because most of our employees require financial and accounting skills. It's very difficult. As acknowledged and recognized in the Auditor General of Canada's recent report, we just don't have those types of employees throughout the system in the government and throughout Nunavut.

So we're making the best use of the funds that the Government of Nunavut has and allowing the Department of Human Resources to see where that human resource strategy is funded through funds through our department that we move through the government accounting system, which is voted on in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not making myself clear. I still feel that my role on this side of the House is we're presented with a paper that says, "We need these numbers of PYs."

And when I look at that and I'm making a decision as to whether I agree with where the money should be spent on a PY or not, I'm thinking that someone's going to be hired and working a position to do a job to fill a need, a capacity to make sure that the government works properly. So that's what we're looking at or I'm looking at on this side of the House.

In terms of accountability to where we're spending money, if that money is actually going to be accumulated and then used for training, to me, I'm not agreeing... well, I would agree to training if it's presented to me as training.

I wonder why the government can't do that in terms of making a bold statement and saying, "We realize we have capacity issues and we want to do training. We have these many PYs and we want to spend this much money on training."

Is it possible for the government to present that to us so we have a better way of making sure we know where the money is being spent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I appreciate Mr. Elliott's support for the training of Government of Nunavut employees.

I think, yesterday, during the Department of Finance appearance in the Committee of the Whole, we talked about the human resource strategy and we mentioned the \$2 million in consultations with the regular members throughout this whole budgeting cycle, so I think it's no secret that we planned to do this.

I'll leave it up to Mr. Elliott if he wishes to ask further questions or if he wants to approach me privately, or the Minister of Human Resources, or any other minister to talk about the training needs of their employees within their departments. We have indicated many times that we're open and approachable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 056 – 3(2): Suitability of Telehandlers for Arctic

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to follow up on a question by my colleague for South Baffin. I appreciate the diligence of my colleague for trying to ask questions about farming in our Assembly. I never thought I would see that day yet. I know that there's global warming but I didn't know it was coming this fast. So I would like to know from the Minister of Housing...

Harvesting takes place in the summer months when the temperature is quite warm. Since we're getting farming equipment to deal with our housing needs and housing repairs throughout our harsh climate, has this type of equipment been tested to operate in our conditions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated to my colleague from South Baffin the other day, one of the concerns was the New Holland equipment being able to operate in the environment that we have up here.

Mr. Speaker, I pointed out that the only change is they included an arctic oil package in there. So they're confident that that piece of equipment will be able to work in extreme cold weather conditions. I also confirmed that the New Holland equipment does go through extreme cold weather testing prior to their designing and manufacturing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have been following the transcripts as well, but I must say that Toromont has been a good company that has been operating here for some time and they have proven equipment. And I'm asking: has this type of equipment been tested up here in our conditions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll hopefully be able to give the member positive results of how the testing and the equipment operated over this year at this time next year. The corporation is aware that that was a concern. It was discussed with the New Holland manufacturer, as I had indicated, and there were some adjustments made to the equipment to be able to address that issue.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation and the New Holland manufacturers are confident that that piece of equipment will be able to perform the duties required of it in the environment that it has. Mr. Speaker, I know that the member indicated that the Case Toromont business had been up here for a while and provided good equipment. I'm not disputing that, Mr. Speaker.

But as I indicated the other day, we received quotes from both companies. After the NNI adjustment of 21 percent on the Case Toromont bid, the Weagant New Holland bid was still just about \$62,000 cheaper. So that was the reason behind going with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) So my colleague is saying that this farming equipment has yet to be tested for its ability to do the work in our territory and we have spent a considerable sum of money already.

Usually, in those cases, you try and test them first to see if they can last long enough in our conditions before making such a commitment. So I'm asking my colleague, the minister: why was there no testing taking place in our territory before making such a huge commitment of our tax dollars? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, New Holland had indicated to us that their equipment does go through extreme cold weather testing and that they are confident that that equipment will be able to operate in our environment.

There are planes and all kinds of equipment that is bought by all levels of government and everyone else out there in the public. There's no requirement to make sure it has to be tested up here first before it can be used.

I think going through the evaluations on it and ensuring that the equipment can perform the function that is required of it and also with the assurances from the manufacturer that it has gone through cold weather testing and it will operate up here, both the Housing Corporation staff and the New Holland manufacturer are confident that that will be the case.

Before we buy anything, we just can't say, "Well, it's never been used up here, so we can't do anything until we get you to come up here and test it out first." I mean that simply seems like a very irrational request to put out there to anybody if you're looking at buying anything to be used up here in Nunavut,

saying anything can't be used until it's tested up here.

So there would be like millions of manufacturers out there saying, "Well, we can't provide anything to you," when the government says, "We can't buy stuff until it has been tested up here first." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wouldn't be asking if I hadn't known that we were dealing with farming equipment.

We're in Nunavut and we're not farming yet. We hope to be farming one day perhaps, but we are not there yet. Our climate is getting warmer, yes, but we're not there yet. So that's why I'm asking and I hope that there's at least a way to recover some of our dollars if these things don't work out in the coming year.

What kind of commitments have we made so far? I know that there are probably additional units that will be required in other communities. Hopefully the minister has not committed us to telehandlers and farm equipment in all of the communities yet because we would like to see if they work and survive in the Arctic first. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated, the Housing Corporation staff are confident and

comfortable with the information provided by New Holland that that piece of equipment will work up here and perform the work that's required of it.

The member and his colleague from South Baffin are seeing in the NNI, and I wholeheartedly agree with supporting Inuit owned businesses, in which case Toromont is, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we have the NNI Policy. They were given a 21 percent bid adjustment and their price, like I said, was still over \$60,000 more expensive.

So I'm saying that after reviewing it, the corporation has determined that both of these pieces of equipment will be able to perform the functions required of them in our communities. I think it's not only from the corporation's point of view but from the entire government that, as my colleague from South Baffin pointed out, if all you need is a Volkswagen, why would you buy a Porsche?

It just seems that if you have two pieces of equipment that can do the job that's required, then you're going to go with the one that's the cheapest. And Mr. Speaker, as far as looking at the contracting and procurement practices of the government, when a request for a quotations is requested, and that's what was used in this case to get quotations, as I had indicated, from the four manufacturers, the lowest price wins and that's what we went with.

Once we felt comfortable and confident, we determined that the price of the New Holland equipment was the lowest and that it was capable of performing the functions required of it, that's what we went with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 057 – 3(2): Daycare Space in Chesterfield Inlet

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

Just recently, I received a letter from Chesterfield Inlet in regard to its current daycare facility. It's been over 40 years since this building was erected. It used to be a residential home which was converted into a daycare centre.

The daycare used to be a three-bedroom house and due to its age, there have been previous attempts to renovate it. These attempts have revealed more underlying problems which are too extensive to repair, as outlined in the letter. It's now quite apparent that they require a new daycare centre in Chesterfield Inlet.

As indicated in the department's business plan for 2009-2010, under Early Childhood Education, one of the priorities is to "Develop alternative funding arrangements for licensed child care facilities."

For that reason, I would like to ask the minister what is included in renovation projects for daycares, or what other assistance can be provided to Chesterfield Inlet or other communities in Nunavut that have daycare facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was our initiative and I also made a Minister's Statement in regard to that matter. In the past, if an individual was 18 years of age or older, they weren't able to be provided support for daycare if they were going to school.

I mentioned earlier that the age requirement for the support we provide to young parents has been amended to 19 years of age or older. Previously, we only assisted those students who were 18 and under, but we will now be able to provide support to students who require daycare for their children.

We're now able to provide support to students 19 years of age or older to assist them in continuing with their education and this was the change we made in the program, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The daycare has a committee and the community of Chesterfield Inlet is interested in getting a new daycare centre, but they don't know who to contact. I was asking if our government could provide funding to anyone who is requesting to get a new daycare centre.

There are children being taken care of while the parents are going to work. So I would like to know if the department can provide funding for communities that would like to get new daycare centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have funding for communities that need to construct their initial daycare centre. We have a line item in our budget for daycare initiatives and we can provide some support for that.

In regard to his question about renovation of existing daycare centres, I would like to take his question as notice. I can't provide a response at this time in regard to the renovation program or additional daycare centre construction, so I will have to take his question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. At this time, your question has been taken as notice and he will get back to you once he gets his information.

Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 058 – 3(2): Rules for Use of Health and Social Services Vehicles in Communities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

I have some health related questions that I would like to ask. In my Members' Statement, I was bringing up the issue of people with disabilities in terms of people who are in wheelchairs and whatnot.

I know that most health centres across Nunavut have vehicles that are used by

health care staff. Could the minister explain what some of the rules are on the use of those vehicles? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his question, yes, I do understand the context, but we don't have specific rules for people with disabilities.

There are individuals who assist these people out of the goodness of their hearts. But we, as the Department of Health and Social Services, are indeed responsible for disabled people. However, we don't provide funding to the communities for that. There are many underlying reasons for this, but I can only provide that as a response. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't actually asking whether there was funding provided for vehicles, I was asking what the rules are for the vehicles that are actually in the communities that the nurses use.

What I'm trying to ask is: can those vehicles be used to transport people with disabilities either to and from medical appointments or to community events? Is it possible in the guidelines for the use of those vehicles? I imagine it has to do with insurance and stuff like that, but is there an ability to do that? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I made it quite clear in Inuktitut, in my language anyways, if you go back to my own Inuktitut verbatim, that there is neither funding nor vehicles available for disabled individuals in communities due to a number of reasons.

With my Inuktitut comments, I'll translate for myself. The reason is that there are liability issues and there would have to be a licensed operator to handle all of that. So in view of that, we are very cautious to get into that kind of stuff until we have clarified all of our policies and procedures that we are currently reviewing at the moment. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that question. I realize there are usually, especially with government departments and whatnot, different liabilities that we have to work towards and think about.

My next question is in regard to home care workers. I know there has been a push over the years to make sure that people end up staying in the community to get the care that they need. With an aging population, how do you go about getting home care workers in your community?

I have three communities to sort of watch over and one of my communities does have home care workers and the other two do not. There are a couple of people in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay that could benefit from a home care worker. What do we do to ensure that we

get that in those two communities that don't have them? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The minister is not responsible for your question because you were asking about the use of vehicles. If you would like to ask other questions, please raise your hand again.

Oral Questions. Mr. Okalik.

Question 059 – 3(2): Bridge for Sylvia Grinnell River Update

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Last year, the federal government agreed to provide funding for the construction of a bridge here in Iqaluit. They agreed to build a bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River which would be for public use, especially by Inuit hunters who have wanted to be able to cross the river.

The federal government agreed that this project could proceed. However, we haven't been informed on the status to date. I would like to ask our Premier about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment is responsible for that project. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question from the hon. member. I believe he is referring to the Sylvia Grinnell Bridge in Iqaluit and yes, we are currently reviewing this bridge.

We have discussed this at Cabinet and we are proceeding in the direction of a pedestrian bridge. We're reviewing the whole bridge plan with all of the original partners and partnerships involved to try and put these in place again because they have all terminated these agreements in the sense that all of the funding has lapsed.

So we're trying to get all arrangements and commitments into place at this time with the Department of National Defence, Trails Canada, and the Rotary Club. Once we have these further commitments in place, we will move forward and then I would advise the member at that time where we are. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did I hear correctly that the original residents of Iqaluit, the hunters who wanted the ability to cross the bridge with their snowmobiles and four-wheelers, who have been requesting this bridge for a long time, are being denied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the hon. member that no, we are not denying anybody's request.

Originally, this bridge is identified as a pedestrian bridge under the park master plan for the Sylvia Grinnell Park. We have all of the correspondence and documentation from the City of Iqaluit and all interested groups and parties of Iqaluit, and everybody is in support of a pedestrian bridge.

It was under the understanding that the Canadian military was going to construct and erect the pedestrian bridge and that is their gift-in-kind to us. We have had discussions with the military so far. They are reviewing the request and their offer of a pedestrian bridge and trying to renew that commitment to us right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the original residents of Iqaluit because the federal government had agreed that the bridge could be used by harvesters. I regret that our government has turned their backs on the hunters and I apologize. Will you commit to reviewing that issue again?

The minister stated that they reviewed the correspondence on the matter, but public announcements were made via the radio that this bridge would be used by anyone, whether it be pedestrians or harvesters with snowmobiles or four-wheelers. So what happened to the agreement; has it been lost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I wish to advise the member, and I have met with General Millar of the Department of National Defence, the commitment and intent for this project was always a pedestrian bridge.

I would appreciate and would like to receive any correspondence that the member has that says anything different than that. We were meeting with all our partners that are involved, we have discussed this in Cabinet, and we are proceeding with the direction of a pedestrian bridge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, it was the centre of several news stories on the radio and there was a written agreement with the federal government that this bridge could be used by hunters, especially original residents of Iqaluit.

Now, we have been informed that the original reason for the construction of the bridge is no longer applicable as it will be just a pedestrian bridge. I sincerely apologize to the Iqaluit residents that this government has turned its back on them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That sounded more like a comment. Mr. Shewchuk, would you like to respond?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: No, thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 060 – 3(2): Telehandler Purchase

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the housing minister.

On this quote here for 22 telehandler units from the farm supplier that was dated March 9, I'm really impressed that they were able to analyze it all in one day and come up with a decision, but that could maybe explain why there's so much overtime at the Housing Corporation.

That same day, they made a decision that the farm supplier was the best deal. That same day, they got a hold of the farm supplier on March 9 and requested a price for five units. It's surprising, they had it analyzed in one day and they got a price for five on the same day. I would like to know how they did that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have very efficient and effective staff at the Housing Corporation, and I thank the member for pointing out their strengths... no, Mr. Speaker, I can't give him an exact reason why.

But I could only assume that, as indicated, discussions were going on between all of the people who were asked for a quotation as far as exactly what type of equipment and what was required. So at the end of the day, when the time came, everyone was in agreement as to what the technical

specifications were; it was just a matter of waiting for the numbers.

That would be my guess, but I will commit to looking into it and if it is different from that, I'll let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know who those people were involved in that. I'm sure that all of the other government departments would be glad to pick them up because they're very efficient.

Going back to what I said earlier, like I say, we're not comparing apples to apples here when we're talking farm equipment and when we're talking CAT telehandlers. I specified to you that there were three different things included in the CAT that wasn't included in the New Holland. If you take into account, the CAT product was \$1,000 less.

So I just don't understand how you could compare the two notes and then say, "Well, the farm supplier was the cheaper one." They're not including the same thing, so I would like to have that explained to me. By tomorrow, if you can explain to me why the farm supplier was chosen even though they don't have the same specs as the CAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's times like this when I wish I was a better artist than I am, I could

have drawn a very clear picture for the member.

Mr. Speaker, in any piece of equipment you buy, if you look at two pick-up trucks between Ford and Dodge, there's going to be differences. Nothing is the same. Otherwise, there would only be one manufacturer out there making equipment.

Naturally, there are going to be differences in different manufacturers as far as what type of equipment they have included or required in their particular design of a piece of equipment. As the member pointed out, I did ask my officials in the Housing Corporation to ensure what are the differences between the two pieces of equipment. And there are basically about three real differences, Mr. Speaker.

One is that the CAT, which the member is a proud owner of, has a lift capacity of 6,500 lbs. and the New Holland telehandler has a lift capacity of 7,500 lbs. Both of them are capable of doing what we need them to do. I think the most that they would be lifting is to lift plywood up to the second storey roof at 20 feet, so both are very able to perform that task.

The other difference is the CAT boom is a 42-foot boom and the New Holland boom is a 31-foot boom. As I indicated earlier, we're looking at two-storey or one-storey buildings. I think the maximum we would need for the boom would be 20 feet to go out, unless someone wanted to use it, if they're not was a little longer than that, to put their net out across the river.

The other difference, and the member pointed that out, and it was something that was identified as an issue is that the CAT package has hydraulic reservoir heaters in them. When we confirmed with New Holland, they had indicated that they have an arctic oil package that would address that same issue and deal with it so that it would still be able to work under those cold conditions.

Those are the main differences. At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, it was determined that both pieces of equipment could perform the function required of them.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, based on government policy, and the corporation did follow it, after the NNI adjustment, the Case Toromont bid was still \$61,860 higher than the New Holland bid, so we went with the cheaper price. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the minister is just not going to get that there's a difference here. This one has a lift hook which was specified as \$5,000, outriggers are \$9,000 and you will find out that you will probably need them, and then if you take the difference of the NNI Policy, the CAT was \$1,000 cheaper.

I just don't see... were there any specs when this was quoted? I mean, what did you do? Did you just go to somebody? Like if I went down to a Volkswagen dealer and I say, "I don't need the spare tire," and the other guy includes the spare tire... I mean there should have been some specs put in when you got the

quotes because that's why Toromont CAT consistently asks, "Why is this not tendered?" Because when you do a tender, everything is itemized.

They tried to get a hold of people over there at housing in order to try to get what has to be included and had no returns on it. So basically, everybody put in whatever they thought they should need. Well, that's not fair. You're not comparing apples to apples. You're comparing two different units with two different types of specs for it.

So I find the way this was done rather confusing and what I also find very interesting is, of course, that this is in the Morrisburg area, which is where the marshaller happens to be, where the consulting firm happens to be, and I hear Peter Scott is moving down there.

I don't know, but maybe a guy should be looking down there to purchase some other things. It looks like it's a good place to buy stuff and to live. So my question is: why were there not proper specs done?

An Hon. Member: Point of Order.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. A Point of Order has been called. Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I'm not trying to quash the member's comments and I look forward to answering legitimate questions, but it is against our Rules to make accusations and implying ulterior motives to anybody.

And that's exactly what the member was doing. I have no problem answering his questions if he would stick to questions and not make allegations. So I would ask that if he could withdraw those comments and just stick to the questions, I've got the answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the Point of Order. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take those things out. I mean, I can leave the consulting firm in there because they were involved in this tender, but I will take the other two comments out.

And I guess my question is I just want...

Speaker: Mr. Schell, can you give me a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Schell. The Point of Order was accepted by Mr. Schell. Mr. Schell, I would like to caution you, please do not use personal names in your questioning or comments. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for that. I guess all I'm trying to find out is why there wasn't a proper quotation done on this with specs.

They should have got a hold of somebody so that we're comparing apples to apples. Unfortunately, we're not and it's very misleading to both of the actual suppliers because they don't really know what they are bidding on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite clear that the member has some personal concerns with this issue and like I said, I told him in my office and his office, and anywhere he asked me about it, "Just tell me what you want to know and I'll get the information for you."

Mr. Speaker, I do want to set the record straight, so if the member can provide the exact times when. He had indicated that one of the companies that was asked for a quotation was requesting information and that they weren't gotten back to.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have the emails or the questions that were asked, though the member did point that out to me outside of the House earlier and I did check into it and said that the only correspondence back and forth on questions as far as, "Should it include this? Should this be in there?"

You know, emails that were received... the one on February 12 was received at 11:40 in the morning and was responded to, Mr. Speaker, on the very same day at 1:57 in the afternoon. Another email on February 9 requesting that type of information and clarification at 12:22 in the afternoon and they were responded to at 5:29 that same day. So I don't know if the member may want to check with his source at Case Toromont to make sure that they are providing him with accurate information.

Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated and I don't know how much clearer I could be, the member indicated that he doesn't get it and I don't think he will get it, it's the fact that we have two pieces of equipment and naturally, there are going

to be differences and different manufacturers that it's not going to be identical. If you buy two vehicles, they're not the same. But both pieces of equipment have the capability to do the job.

Mr. Speaker, I must also point out the fact that when the Housing Corporation did the request for quotations, they had indicated and they did follow up with both Case and New Holland people saying, "Okay, do we need anything else?" And there were suggestions of specific things to be included in the price put forth by both companies and both companies were made well aware of what those requirements were prior to submitting their quotations.

So I don't know how much clearer than that I could get, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure the member has more questions and I look forward to continuing to provide him with the information he needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do have to make a comment on the Housing Corporation.

They do get the information to you but they give you a little piece at a time. You ask a question, and I asked this question right from the start, and they give you a little piece of paper and say, "Well, maybe that will shut him up for a while," and then you ask them and then you get another piece of paper.

It seems to take forever to try to get the actual answer, which makes it very

suspicious as to what's going on there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a trick I learned a long time ago as a regular member, if you want, you have to be very careful of how you word your question because you get the answer to the question you ask.

The member indicated that we're just providing him dribs and drabs of information. Mr. Speaker, the member asked us last week for what all of the specs that were included in that, the information was provided to him.

He asked us for the total price, we provided him with that information. I don't know where he's coming from as far as, generally, the question he asked us, we gave him the answer. He asked us for a detailed listing with both suppliers of what was included in their bid, the information was provided to him.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how, unless he wants to be clearer in outlining in his questions as to exactly what he's looking for, which is something that I have talked to him about and said, "Whatever it is you want to know, let me know. I'll get the information for you." But I and my staff have provided all of the information that has been requested by the member in answering his questions.

And if he has thought up of something else once he has received that information, well, I don't know that until he asks it again. So if you want more information, just be clear in what you're asking for and we will be more than

happy to provide the information to him, which is, as I have indicated to him in the past, what we would be more than happy to do.

Mr. Speaker, the member and his colleague from Iqaluit West keep referring to the fact that it's farm equipment. I believe New Holland doesn't just produce farm equipment. It would be like saying, if you go to Canadian Tire, they don't just sell tires at Canadian Tire. It's the same type of scenario.

Just because it is in the farming area and the majority of it is farm equipment, New Holland doesn't just produce farm equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 061 – 3(2): NHC's Purchase of Telehandlers

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Originally, I had asked questions about home care workers to the Minister of Health and Social Services, but I think I'll ask that question tomorrow because I want to get in on these questions happening today in regard to what's happening with the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

I have been sitting here listening and kind of interested and intrigued as to what is actually going on. As the questions were going around, Mr. Schell actually had mentioned about the

Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and I might not have the technical words right because I'm not into dealing with telebooms, or farm equipment, or whatever.

>> *Laughter*

Could the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission make a commitment to contact that department and ask if the specifications meet their needs in terms of whether it's farm equipment or industrial equipment? That way, we will know whether this equipment is going to be able to be used here before it gets here. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the concern of the member, but I believe that the member knows that we cannot comment on hypothetical cases; we don't have a case at the moment. WSCC deals with cases that are quite different from this kind of stuff, so I'm not prepared to comment on the question further. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't actually asking the minister to make a comment on his own, I was asking if he could contact the WSCC, which he's responsible for, and make inquiries.

Now, my understanding is that he's implying that if there's a claim at the

Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and then they deal with it. My understanding of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is they're more preventative and they want to get the information out there and make sure the accidents don't happen.

What I'm asking is whether he could contact the WSCC and say, "Look, this is what we're discussing. Is there a safety issue with this type of machinery and does this need to be put in?" I'm just going to ask again: would the minister be willing to contact the WSCC and ask if the specs meet the technical requirements?

Like I said, I don't know all of the ins and outs, but I'm sure they would know what needs to be required for a safe operation of that machinery. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe that my colleague requires any help from WSCC and if he does need help, I'm sure that he would advise me whether we should get involved or not. At this moment, he has not requested any help from WSCC.

And I believe the Housing Corporation is keeping within the guidelines and they will continue to do so. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'll ask again: does that mean that the minister is saying no, he will not contact the WSCC and ask or inquire about this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have a case that the WSCC must investigate about, so we will not do so. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Speaker. I'm not quite sure what question to ask in the sense that once again I'm finding that the minister is not willing to cooperate and pick up the phone and make a phone call to maybe find out about safety. To me, it's a preventative thing.

And I guess I'll just ask one more time: would the minister be willing to contact the WSCC and make an inquiry on behalf of the safety for the workers who are going to be using it? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, WSCC does not respond to any questions that may be related to third parties or whatnot unless there has been a real serious situation that occurred within their mandate.

But at this moment, I believe the member himself could probably find out. He could probably go to a library somewhere and find out whether or not the guidelines are being adhered to or not at the moment.

We're speculating whether or not some of the equipment is meeting the safety rules or not. At this moment, I don't

believe I have a case to inquire about.
Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please note that Question Period is now over. Going to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 13: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

**Committee Report on Bills 001 – 3(2):
Bill 4, An Act to Amend the
Income Tax Act**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Bill 4 is ordered into Committee of the Whole for Monday, June 15. (interpretation ends) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 025 – 3(2):
Government of Canada Supports
Sylvia Grinnell Bridge**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the

release from the federal government regarding the Sylvia Grinnell River.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please?

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Tabled Document 026 – 3(2): Annual
Report on the Administration of
the Government of Nunavut's
Access to Information and
Protection of Privacy Act, April
1, 2008 to March 31, 2009**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Annual Report on the Administration of the Government of Nunavut's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please?

(interpretation) Tabling of Documents.
Ms. Eva Aariak.

**Tabled Document 027 – 3(2): 2008-
2009 Annual Report for
Nunavummit Kiglisiniaqtiit**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased to table the Nunavummit Kiglisiniaqtiit Annual Report for the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Tabled Document 028 – 3(2): Office of the Fire Marshall 2008 Annual Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Office of the Fire Marshall 2008 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 029 – 3(2): Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics as of March 31, 2009

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Human Resources' Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics as of March 31, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 03 – Western Canada Lottery Act – Notice

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 15, 2009, that Bill 3, *Western Canada Lottery Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 5 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:34 and Committee resumed at 16:01*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal: Bills 1, 2, and 5. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with our review of Bill 1 with the Department of Justice at the witness table, followed by the Housing Corporation, and if time permits, we would appreciate it if the Department of Education is able to make an appearance at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the main estimates for the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials to the witness table.

(interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Koovian Flanagan, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice, and to my right is Doug Garson, Assistant Deputy Attorney General. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not

until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed question during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? I don't see any members wishing to make general comments.

We will go on to E-4. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,794,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the minister and his officials for being here. During my opening comments yesterday as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I mentioned that the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* came into force on March 1, 2008.

It has come to my attention that your department will shortly be issuing a request for proposals for an evaluation of the Act. Can you give us some detail on what areas are going to be looked at and when you expect to receive the evaluation report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's an important Act, it came into force on March of last year, and like any new Act or any new program, it takes time to implement.

We did a lot of training with the community justice outreach workers in

all of the communities. The plan is to initiate the review very shortly, as the member quite correctly pointed out, with a call for proposals and hopefully the report will be done within this current calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to help implement the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, all communities should have a community justice outreach worker. Do all communities now have a community justice outreach worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that good question. Mr. Chairman, there are 23 community justice outreach workers out of 25. In fact, in my community of Cambridge Bay, we are trying to recruit a community justice outreach worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for the response. I had a couple of other questions. First of all, section 49 of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* requires you, as a minister, to table an annual report on the operations of the Act. When will you table the first annual report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are required to table a report. We don't have a date of when we will table the report but that is our intention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know for a fact that provinces have domestic violence concerns, or more or less have some mechanisms in place to deal with them. This one is along the lines as well for asking.

In Nunavut, one of the priorities listed in your business plan under the Directorate Branch is to take interagency approaches to the continuation of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Can you give examples of the interagency approaches you intend to use? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As I said earlier, we are still early in the implementation and establishment of the FAIA, and we haven't had a chance to evaluate the program.

But one of the initiatives we're looking at is using the family violence group here in Iqaluit to help us with the interagency approach. I know RCMP

officers in some of the communities are involved and the community councils are involved as well.

When we complete the evaluation, that information will be available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I'm not sure if I heard the minister correctly. I think he indicated that we have 25 communities in Nunavut and there are 23 communities with community outreach workers.

One community that's still trying to recruit a worker is Cambridge Bay. What other communities still need to get a community outreach worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. I have been told the other community is Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Mr. Ningark doesn't have any more questions. (interpretation ends) I don't have any more names on my list. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,794,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is E-5. Branch Summary. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance.

\$25,110,000. Agreed? Thank you... Mr. Ningark, pardon me.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting for other members to raise their hands, sorry about that.

Mr. Chairman, about four or five years ago, there was some indication from the public opinion that every community detachment should have two RCMP officers to work together. I'm going to be asking the minister if each community, regardless of size, has two or more detachment officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. The answer is yes, every community has a minimum of two officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I don't have any more names. Once again, Branch Summary. Law Enforcement. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waving.

>>*Laughter*

On March 25, 2009, you informed the Legislative Assembly about the possibility of a Summer Constable Program being started with candidates from each community. Can you give us an update on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. I talked to the commanding officer of the RCMP last week and he told me that they're in the process of advertising and promoting the program.

I believe there's a training workshop later this month, but I don't have the exact dates. From June 20 to 26 here in Iqaluit, they will be bringing in training candidates from each community and once they graduate, they will be going back to their communities to work with the RCMP.

I understand it has been a very successful program over the years. The commanding officer told me it costs them about \$250,000 to hold that program every year for two months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This year's directional statement, which was signed by the Minister of Justice and the RCMP in June of 2008, provided a list of priorities shared by the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP.

One of those priorities is to build on existing community wellness initiatives through interagency partnerships that will aid suicide prevention. Can you give any specific examples of what your department is doing in partnership that aids suicide prevention? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. Mr. Chairman, we're in the process of reviewing or negotiating a new shared directional agreement and there will be a new commanding officer coming to Nunavut.

One of the examples that I can give Mr. Rumbolt regarding the question about suicide is when the RCMP are in the communities, they will go into schools and talk to the children about that issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I don't have any names on my list. So once again, Branch Summary. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$25,110,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,963,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's known throughout Nunavut and as well as in some communities that there are some matters that have not yet been presented before the courts.

Legal aid and services have been accessed by many constituents, varying from issues of criminal activity or even child custody matters. Some have been overlooked or some have been sitting still in a sense.

Your department's draft 2009-2010 budget for Lawyer Support Services has increased by \$488,000, most of which is due to an increase in compensation and benefits. However, there's an increase of only one PY.

Given the fact that there's an increase of only one PY for the Lawyer Support Services Branch, can you explain why there is such an increase in the budget for compensation and benefits? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, in fact, it's actually two positions. The first position would be the assistant deputy attorney general, which is Mr. Garson here, and the second is another lawyer position which I believe is in the Legal and Constitutional Division, so there are two lawyers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I don't have any names on my list. Once again, Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,963,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page E-7. Branch Summary. Registration and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$9,207,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. On E-7, Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the community outreach worker is to work closely with the JP in the community.

Does every community have the benefit of a Justice of the Peace? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I believe that every community does have a JP. I recently signed some documents to appoint new JPs or reappoint JPs for many of the communities.

So if there isn't a JP in a particular community, they can call a JP in an adjacent community. Where there isn't a JP, we would certainly advertise and ask the hamlet council for recommendations of names to appoint a JP. But as far as I know, there's a JP in every community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your business plan indicates that a priority for this year is to introduce amendments to the *Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act*. What is the status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. All of the community consultations have been completed. We're in the process of writing a report, it should be complete within a month... well, I would say within a month or two,

and then we would be able to present it to the MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I don't have any more names on my list. Once again, Branch Summary. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$9,207,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page E-8. Branch Summary. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$23,136,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page E-9. Branch Summary. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,792,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the priorities listed in your department's business plan is to "Address social concerns at their roots." Can you give specific examples of how your department will address social concerns this way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. One of the ways we will try to tackle that issue is through the interagency approach - get as many members of the community, hamlet councils, wellness centres, RCMP, schools, and justice committees involved in discussing the issues and making them more public, talking about possible

solutions and possible programs that we can initiate in the communities to tackle the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response as well because it's going to be very encouraging to see community members and professionals participate.

I'm obviously not going to overlook any of the departments, but I also wanted to suggest, as you mentioned the DEAs and hamlets, that there are also social workers and other counselling services, and you may also want to consider health centres.

Overall, the scope of the community is basically to participate in all of this. There are some elders' committees as well, and I would also like to suggest to the minister to consider the leadership and participation of our elders as committees and organizations. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that suggestion; it's a very good suggestion. We do have elders on the justice committees, but there are a lot of agencies in all of the communities that are doing important work and they can all contribute on their unique perspective on how to address the social issues.

It's important that the interagency groups don't just sit there and talk but actually make decisions and then initiate

ideas, and come to the Department of Justice, the Government of Nunavut, all of the departments looking for support on some of the initiatives they want to introduce in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Are you finished? (interpretation ends) I have no more names. So once again, Branch Summary. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,792,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$76,002,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we are concluded with the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. Minister, do you have closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Members of the Committee of the Whole. You asked a lot of good questions not only in the Committee of the Whole but during our appearance before the standing committee. I appreciate the input and the direction that you have given us.

We look forward to working with you during the coming year to implement a lot of the good programs and policies that our department has. If you ever have any questions during the year, feel free to contact myself or the deputy minister. Don't wait for issues to develop; we're open and willing to listen.

I would like to thank my officials in the Department of Justice for the work they did in putting together the business plan and main estimates for this year.

I would just like to let you folks know the people to each side of me. I would like to introduce J.P. Deroy, he didn't get a chance to appear today, and Wendy Bens is a recent graduate of the intern program. She is a budget analyst, so she has done a lot of work putting the numbers together. You will be seeing a lot more of her in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson and your officials. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Tootoo, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a good thing I'm ready.

Things are just cruising right along and I hope it keeps going that way.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to meet with the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Fiscal 2009-2010 GN funding to the Housing Corporation will increase by \$15,151,000 from the main estimates of 2008-09 but after the supplementary appropriations, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting an additional \$8,946,000 above the revised main estimates.

The supplementary appropriations during the 2008-09 year were to address the special issues that arose, such as the Rankin Inlet power outage repairs, the increase in power and fuel rates, as well as the Nunavut Employees Union contract increases.

The major additional increase for 2009-2010 consists of \$8,052,000 for O&M costs for new public housing that will be available during this year and \$1,256,000 to offset the net reduction in CMHC funding as well as other programs having sunset, such as the Nunavut Arctic College pre-trades course.

The need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative sources of funding.

I look forward to continue lobbying the federal government and discuss our growing housing issues in Nunavut, including the requirements for extra

funding for both capital and operating costs.

Our federal partners, such as the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which I'll refer to as CMHC from here on in just to get it on the record, are important to housing in Nunavut and the recent signing of the \$109 million agreement with CMHC, which includes a \$100 million northern housing initiative, shows the continued investment for housing in Nunavut by the federal government.

I would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2009-2010 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort his officials in.

(interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Tootoo, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right and your left is Mr. David Akoak, he is the Vice-President of the Nunavut Housing Trust, and on my left and your right is Mr. Eric Whitworth, he is the Chief Financial Officer for the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Does the Chair of the Standing of

Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok: Yes, we do. (interpretation) Can we begin? Thank you. I'll try to be slow for the benefit of the interpreters as some members talk a bit too fast.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the corporation's proposed 2009-2010 main estimates of \$128,168,000 have increased by approximately 62 percent since the introduction of the department's 2004-05 main estimates. The number of positions in the corporation has increased from 70.0 PYs in 2004-05 to 89.0 PYs in 2009-2010.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of important issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to note that the recent report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts made a number of observations and recommendations concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's management of the public housing program and the delivery of new units under the Nunavut Housing Trust. Accordingly, my opening comments

today will not repeat that which has already been raised in the House.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2006-07 annual report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until September 18, 2008. It is important that the corporation's annual reports be tabled in a timely manner. The standing committee recognizes that the corporation has been working with the Department of Finance to address issues related to reporting requirements involving local housing organizations' audited financial statements.

The Government of Nunavut's recent annual reports on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities have not included information on the activities of Crown corporations and agencies. The standing committee recommends that information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting, procurement and leasing activities also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

In 2003, the Government of Nunavut announced the establishment of a Crown Agency Council to address issues related to the government's relationship with its major Crown corporations and agencies. During the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the government began the practice of providing annual ministerial letters of expectation to Crown corporations and agencies in order to establish priorities and provide direction with respect to their operations and initiatives.

The current government, through its new Public Agency Council, has indicated that it will be undertaking a

Memorandum of Understanding-based approach to this process. The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of priority-setting items that are directed to Crown corporations and agencies, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 annual ministerial letter of expectation to the corporation's president stated that "the time is right for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to undergo a full organizational review in order to determine if the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current organizational structure and operating framework is still suitable to meet the housing needs of Nunavummiut."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2009-2010 business plan states that one of its priorities is to "Move forward in addressing recommendations resulting from an organizational review of the NHC to determine how best to deliver housing initiatives in Nunavut given available human resources and to determine areas in which the NHC requires additional supports to achieve its vision, mission and mandate." Members look forward to reviewing the results of this review.

Earlier this year, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that the corporation will be "undertaking a comprehensive and Nunavut-wide housing needs survey." The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the results of this survey and supports the minister in his efforts to use these results to make the case for additional federal investments in housing.

On September 13, 2005, the GN announced its new staff housing strategy and policy. The announcement indicated that "the new staff housing strategy will be phased in over a five to ten year period. During this time the Government will incrementally increase rental rates in all Nunavut communities and withdraw from providing staff housing in the emerging market communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. GN Staff Housing will continue to exist in all other communities until private markets are established."

In recent years, concerns have been raised with respect to the impact of the GN's staff housing policy on the government's overall recruitment and retention efforts. Last year's Budget Address announced that staff housing rents would be rolled back to January 2007 levels.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that its priorities include enhancing "the staff housing portfolio, particularly in communities with growing staff housing requirements" and providing "an increased range of options to GN employees to encourage homeownership."

The standing committee looks forward to further discussion on the strategic direction that the government should take with respect to its staff housing policy. An evaluation of the impact that the policy had between 2005 and 2008 will need to be undertaken in order to make sound decisions for the future.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 business plan indicated that "a workshop was held in

Rankin Inlet in April 2007 where the managers of all LHOs met with NHC staff to provide input on how to revise the Public Housing Rent Scale. The findings of this workshop will be analyzed and submitted to Cabinet for approval for implementation in 2008.” However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 business plan does not address the public housing rent scale and it is apparent to members that it has not been revised in a number of years.

During the minister’s appearance, members raised the issue of the public housing rent scale and noted the importance of ensuring that its application does not create disincentives to seeking employment. Members encouraged the Nunavut Housing Corporation to periodically review the rent scale and recommend that the corporation work with the Department of Education, which administers the GN’s Income Support Program, in this area.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to “Strengthen LHO financial management by the NHC” taking over the direct payment of “the non-controllable utility expenses for LHOs and allowing them to dedicate their resources to increased internal financial management on administration, maintenance and collection of rents. The NHC is working on developing a database to ensure that the Corporation can take over direct payment of non-controllable utility expenses” on behalf of LHOs. The standing committee looks forward to updates on the success of this initiative.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that the cost of utilities for the public housing program will increase from \$55,909,000 in 2008-09 to \$64,055,000 in 2009-2010. This is a 14.5 percent increase. The business plan indicates that “Utility expenses include power, fuel, water and sewage, and garbage collection.” The standing committee encourages the Housing Corporation and the Department of Community and Government Services to work together to explore ways of addressing costs in this area.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2006-07 annual report indicates that a total of \$7,452,000 was spent by the Nunavut Housing Corporation on homeowner programs in 2006-07. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that its priorities include finalizing “the review of Homeownership policies and guidelines to support NHC Program Officers in the delivery of NHC Homeownership Programs.” Members recognize that the corporation’s budget for homeownership programs is primarily funded through its annual capital estimates.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that “In March 2009, responsibility for the homelessness file was transferred from the Department of Education to the NHC. The Corporation is in the process of preparing a framework to establish a Homelessness Secretariat.” \$200,000 has been budgeted by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for this function. The standing committee looks forward to regular updates on the work of this secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, he said, "The need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative sources of funding." Has the Housing Corporation looked into any alternative sources of funding for public housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for raising that issue; it's a very important issue for the corporation. It's an issue that I have been raising for years as well that the social housing agreement we have with the federal government is declining in funding. As a result, when mortgages come due on our public housing inventory, the funding for those units falls off.

It has created a larger burden on the government as a whole to be able to come up with operations and maintenance dollars for those additional units. On top of that, if you look at the Nunavut Housing Trust and with this new federal funding that we're getting, roughly 1,000 more units will be on the ground over the next three years in total.

If you look at the average, it's a \$20,000 a year cost to maintain a public housing unit, that's a substantial amount of money. We are in discussions with CMHC to try and find a way to help address that issue. CMHC does acknowledge that that is going to be a challenge for us as a territory to deal with and we're in discussions.

I'll be travelling to an F/P/T meeting this summer and we will be hoping to have that issue on the agenda to talk to the federal minister on. It also not only affects us but I've had two meetings with my other two territorial colleagues in the last six months and they also recognize. We're working together to try and come up with an alternate source of funding for that.

There have been suggestions that maybe we need to sit down and talk to our Department of Finance and try and come up with a solution to address that. And that suggestion has also been made at the CMHC level for their minister maybe to talk to the Minister of the Treasury Board to try and come up with alternate solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in light of Mr. Rumbolt's questioning.

Mr. Chairman, in the minister's statement, the minister indicated that they are requesting an additional \$8,946,000 above the revised main estimates and goes on to state that there is a requirement for extra funding for both capital and operating costs. They

will also be seeking alternative sources of funding.

But given the need to acquire and try to get more money in order to bring affordable housing to Nunavummiut, my understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that we were told there is \$11 million to \$12 million in rental arrears that need to be collected. Is the minister making an extra effort to collect some of that money so we can at least do something up here for the delivery of affordable housing to the tenants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at the overall collections of public housing rental assessments, the corporation, and the member is correct, on our books, our gross receivable is a little over \$12 million.

I know this question was raised earlier during this sitting and I had pointed out that a large portion of that has been growing as a doubtful account and I think there's a little over \$10 million of that that accumulated in a doubtful account. So really, our net receivable amount out there in arrears and tenant damages is a little over \$1.8 million.

I would say, to add to that \$10 million in doubtful accounts, some of these amounts have been carried over as part of the transfer from the Northwest Territories and the transfer of assets and liabilities, so some of that money in receivables goes back a considerable amount of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hon. minister indicated that a portion or at least some of the little over \$12 million may not be collected because of doubtful accounts. Whatever we do up here in the area of housing, sometimes we have to answer to the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.

What is the opinion of your counterpart in this \$11 million to \$12 million receivable? Do they know about this, or do they have any opinions, or is there going to be a setback if you don't collect that money? What's the business? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. If I understand him correctly, I believe the partner he is referring to is CMHC.

Under the social housing agreement that we have with CMHC, the funds flow regardless of what our receivables are and what the doubtful accounts are. It does not affect any of the funding coming in from CMHC. But as I mentioned earlier, some of that receivable goes back quite a number of years.

We are in some preliminary discussions with the auditor who is trying to find out a way to identify exactly how to deal with that so that we don't have to keep carrying it on our books. I would say a good chunk of that is going to be deemed to be uncollectible but yet,

because it's sitting there, we have to record it financially.

So we are in discussions with the Auditor General's office, which does our audits, and trying to come up with a way to deal with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I can explain a little better now knowing that big brother is a nice guy. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials to the witness table. And as our colleague Mr. Curley used to say, "Please keep your answers short." I am just echoing him.

I have a question to the minister in regard to his opening remarks. It doesn't say anything about homeownership or accessing your own home, although he did make some comments on additional public and affordable housing. I think that we should be focusing a little bit more on homeownership so that we can alleviate some of these costs.

I would like to see new homeownership programs and that is the one information that I would like from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation delivers a number of homeownership programs and also as a former member, another colleague used to indicate that most of those programs fall under the capital budget.

Under the O&M and the capital, the corporation delivers the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, the Material Assistance Program, the Home Renovation Program, the Emergency Repair Program, the Senior Citizens Home Repair Program, the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program, and the Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Program.

Mr. Chairman, I would just add that as of March 31, 2009, the corporation has received 835 applications throughout the territory on all of those different programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that we're not dealing with capital but we're looking at O&M and how we can lower the costs in housing. When people become eligible for homeownership, it opens up more public housing units for rental.

I therefore urge all of us to look for more solutions that will help alleviate the burden presently faced by potential homeowners. There is nothing here in regard to this issue and that is why I'm asking questions on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated, the NDAP program and all homeownership programs fall under capital. The Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program falls under our capital budget and it was discussed at that time.

I would like to invite the member if he has any suggestions or ideas of new types of programs and I invite all members if they have any suggestions of different types of programs that we could take a look at. I would say we would look at them but I can't promise you that they would get put in.

But any suggestions or any help that we can get from any members that they feel may be a good program, we would most definitely welcome those suggestions to be able to take a look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of housing is very important to the people of Nunavut and at times, we urge the government to make progress or to improve.

If we're just going to be talking to Ottawa, we're not going to be decreasing the O&M costs we pay for our housing. We have to look at how we can increase the number of homeowners in Nunavut instead of just facing one another. That's part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's responsibility. We have to look at what we're doing and how we can achieve it.

What I really want to ask is: is the Nunavut Housing Corporation going to

be making any plans this year to increase the number of homeowners? This is not a capital question. They're both capital when we're talking about homeowners or public housing, so we have to look at how we can decrease the costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recognize where the member is coming from. I think overall across the territory and the government, and I'm sure in the past, he will agree, one of the biggest inhibitors to homeownership in the North is cost.

I think that through the government's commitment over the last ten years and continued commitment by this government to be able to try and increase our numbers of Inuit employed within the government, we have training opportunities to be able to put individuals in a position to be able to have meaningful employment and to be able to get out of that cycle of always being stuck in public housing units because they can't afford to purchase and maintain their own home.

That's not just the corporation's view but it think it's the whole government approach as far as education and training. As far as the corporation's views, the programs that we have to facilitate that are the programs that I mentioned earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Homeownership is not frivolous, so we have to look at how we can further support homeowners. We hear cases of people who get leaky oil tanks. We hear these stories much more frequently and homeowners are worried about possibly having to replace their fuel tanks and the costs involved with it.

When we're looking at the main estimates, I don't see much support given to homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation) Just as a reminder, you will be able to ask your questions during the page-by-page review of the Housing Corporation.

We're on page L-3. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Minister Tootoo if he wishes to comment on Mr. Okalik's last comment.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly not I or anyone within the corporation would consider homeownership frivolous. But I'll say that the corporation continues; they've had to promote homeownership throughout the territory and provide general information sessions whenever the program officers go into different communities.

It's part of their responsibility to identify individuals who may be interested in looking at homeownership and to meet with them to ensure that they're aware of everything that's involved so that they make an educated decision of whether they wanted to get into homeownership as well.

Mr. Chairman, I know also and the member is well aware that in the last Assembly, there were a number of improvements to some of our programs, the Senior Citizens Home Repair Program and some of the other programs, where the government and the corporation brought forward changes to the income threshold for individuals to raise them from an old lower amount to I think it's about \$125,000 now as an income threshold. So there have been some changes made to try and address those issues.

As far as some of the things that the member talked about like with the leaky oil tanks, there is an Emergency Repair Program that the corporation does have to be able to assist individuals that run into unfortunate situations like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. We're on general comments and I'm asking in regard to his opening comments. They don't say anything about homeownership support and the reason why I'm asking those questions is because they have been omitted. I'm sorry I seem to be getting off topic, but I noted that they are missing support for homeowners.

Last year, there was \$65 million for O&M for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for fuel and others, but we have heard from the petroleum products minister that we will be using a lot less money for this coming fiscal year. This \$55 million will become \$64 million within this year.

Although the price of fuel should have gone down for the next fiscal year, there is a huge increase. I wonder where the increase came from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member suggested, I'll keep my answer very brief. It's not just the fact that we've had a number of more units through the Nunavut Housing Trust come online, so it accounts for some of the increase as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will want to see the contents in the future as to what these will be used for.

There should have been support when the price of fuel went down and I didn't expect to see a huge increase when the fuel price went down because the fuel price has many impacts as we are aware. The Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division said that we will be saving huge sums of money.

I will want to get detailed information on where the increases were made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated in previous responses, a chunk of it is a result of the

additional units that have come online as a result of the Northern Housing Trust.

Mr. Chairman, also in there is not only the fuel cost but in the grants and contributions to the local housing organizations that are for utilities, it includes all utilities. So the cost of power, the cost of fuel, the cost of water and municipal services are also included in there and that accounts for some of the increase as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Yes, I will want to see a summary of detailed information and this is not a question. Once we get to the appropriate page, I'll have more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation) That's understandable. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$128,168,000. Okay, I have Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for being here. Everything discussed affects people's lives and I would hate to see people or families lose homes due to rental arrears. They get into arrears for various reasons.

I sympathize and have empathy to those with arrears, considering that access to shelter is a fundamental right. This fundamental right applies to all applying

presently or thinking of applying, or currently on the waiting list.

It was stated earlier, but I want to ask formally: approximately how much is currently owed in rental arrears and what support can the Nunavut Housing Corporation provide to local housing organizations with respect to collections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I roughed out those numbers earlier in a previous question, but I'll say exactly this time to have it on the record for the member.

Mr. Chairman, the gross receivables, which includes the accounts receivable not only of rental arrears but for tenant damages as well, is \$12,142,848. Out of that, Mr. Chairman, there's an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$10,337,554, leaving us with a net receivable for rental arrears and tenant damages of \$1,805,294 as of March 31, 2008. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for responding with that. Your draft 2009-2010 business plan states that one of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's priorities is to "Move forward in addressing recommendations resulting from an organizational review of the NHC to determine how best to deliver housing initiatives in Nunavut..."

What did this review determine and what is the status of implementing the recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure I get it right, I don't want to misinform members.

Mr. Chairman, that operational review and evaluation of the corporation is not completed yet. The corporation's staff are meeting with the proponents next week to sit down and go over a draft report, and we're hoping that we should have a final report by some time in July.

Once we get a final report of the corporation's review, I could bring it forward to the government and come up with where we go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question requires a yes or no answer, but if it's no, you can explain a little further.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, in recent years, the GN's Department of Community and Government Services tabled in the Legislative Assembly annual contracting, procurement and leasing reports that provide detailed information on how the government departments spend their budgets. However, information concerning the contracting,

procurement and leasing activities of Crown corporations and agencies has not been included in these annual reports.

In response to a written question that was asked by an MLA in March of this year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting reports for 2006 and 2007 were provided.

Will you commit to having the Nunavut Housing Corporation prepare and table separate annual reports that provide similar information on its contracting, procurement and leasing activities or provide this information to the Department of Community and Government Services for inclusion in its annual report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Yes/no... I'm just...

>>*Laughter*

There were two questions there.

Mr. Chairman, as the member quite correctly pointed out that the corporation was asked to provide that information, those reports are done on an annual basis by the corporation. That request was made for a copy of that report and it was provided to the member as a response to a written question.

If the members wish to have that in the format that was provided to the member, provided on an annual basis, I can look into it. I don't have a problem with that as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. But for anything

that gets provided out to the public, I would have to seek concurrence of Cabinet for that and I don't anticipate that that would be an issue.

My only concern with that is if the members felt that the format that was provided to the member in the written question was sufficient and provides all of the information, and then that's something that can be very easily done.

If I was to go into a type of format that the Department of Community and Government Services does for the entire GN contracts and leasing reports that they provide, there's a lot more work involved in that and having a very nice bound document with all kinds of charts and things like that in there.

So if the members have a look at the report that we provided in response to a written question and if that will suffice their requirements, I don't anticipate it would a problem to be able to do that on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the longest yes I have ever heard.

>>*Laughter*

I'm assuming his answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's

draft 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to “Establish the Homelessness Secretariat.”

Approximately how many people in Nunavut are classified as being homeless? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked a very good question. Again, without the resources to be able to pull out that kind of information, I can't provide the member with an answer to that. But I know that there are probably 15 to 20 people utilizing the shelter here in Iqaluit.

One of the issues around homelessness in the North here is that it's not true homelessness; it's what is called hidden homelessness and it manifests itself in the state of overcrowding throughout the territory. I think that's one of the reasons we want to get this needs survey done, to be able to help us identify very clearly and accurately what those numbers are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that answer. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is budgeting \$200,000 for the Homelessness Secretariat. How will these funds be used? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$200,000 has been in the

budget for a number of years now and that funding goes to directly fund the shelters. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So will the Homelessness Secretariat be comprised of different Government of Nunavut departments? How will that secretariat be set up? Is it just \$200,000 going to homeless shelters, or will there actually be a person or a committee set up? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, I have asked my staff to discuss the issue of different options and how we can come up with something to better address that issue as far as homelessness, and the secretariat to bring different options forward for us to consider. At this time, there has not been anything that has come forward.

I also anticipate being able to utilize some of the information that's going to be done over the summer as far as the whole report card progress to be able to see if there are any specific issues in there that this is something that needs to be addressed.

I wouldn't want to say we're going to do this and then find out everyone says that they don't have an issue with this, but preliminary discussions are underway now to be able to incorporate the views and concerns of Nunavummiut.

This is something that formerly fell in the Department of Education, so it's in

the midst of transfer over to the Housing Corporation. We looking to try and come up with different options of ways to move forward but nothing has been finalized there yet. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to continue my line of questioning. In your business plan on page L-19, it explains the different types of homeownership programs.

We have heard that the fuel tanks are not included in the support for homeowners. If either one breaks, they could get assistance through the Emergency Repair Program and the limit is \$15,000. We have also heard that it costs more than \$60,000 to clean up the environment if there was a leak in the fuel tank and this fund is not sufficient enough to pay for it all.

I was wondering if you can consider providing some form of assistance to prevent fuel tanks from leaking because we don't want to see any fuel leakage into our environment. So I would like to ask the minister if he can start making plans for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the member is aware that it's a serious issue throughout the territory.

I believe in the last government, the Department of Community and

Government Services did put together an information package to support homeowners on how to inspect their fuel tanks to make sure that they could check everything out and what to look for to see if they were going to have any potential problems with their fuel tanks and if they needed to replace it.

I think one of the other things that also kick in here is the fact that in some situations, under the homeowners insurance program, if there is any damage of some kind, some of those costs could be covered off by the homeowners insurance package. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He didn't respond to my question. I was asking him if he can start looking for plans to support the homeowners.

Before there are emergency cases with homeowners' fuel tanks, as they age now, I don't want to see any fuel leakage to our environment no matter where it is. I was asking the minister if they can start planning to provide support for homeowners perhaps in the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to correct myself from my previous response, I had indicated that the information in question on advising homeowners how to inspect their fuel tank to see if it's still in good shape or not, that came from the

Department of Environment, not from the Department of Community Government and Services. I apologize to my colleague and the Minister of Environment for that.

I think that's like a joint issue between the Department of Environment and the government. The government has taken steps to bring homeowners to be aware that that's an issue by putting that questionnaire out there to homeowners.

Like I said, if something does happen, if some unfortunate incident happens, the individuals can apply under the Emergency Repair Program. Also, as I indicated, in a lot of cases, this could be covered under their homeowner's insurance as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He's not responding to my question and I have been asking the same question. If there was a homeowner that had a fuel leak, they have to pay close to \$60,000 and that's a very expensive cost. Perhaps the cost is about \$3,000 to \$4,000 to install a new tank. Sometimes things happen that we didn't anticipate. We should institute a program in order to alleviate the problem and which is easily and quickly implemented.

The current assistance program has a \$15,000 limit which is nowhere near what has to be paid. Sometimes they are covered by their insurance, but the majority of the homeowners are not provided support through insurance. That's why I'm asking the minister if he

can come up or look to see if he can up with a new program to provide support to the homeowners.

As a government, we let the homeowners pay expensive costs. I would like to ask the minister if he's willing to see if he can come up with a new program some time in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated to the member's question earlier, any suggestions or ideas that he has to try and help in this area that we would most definitely look into.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I take the member's recommendation and I guess that's what he's recommending. I would say that something like that, it sounds like it would be more of a capital type program offered by the corporation, so we will take a look.

As I said, with any suggestions that the members make for us to look into, we would be more than happy to do that. Yes, we would look at something. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't ask questions now and allow other members to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 budget for homeownership programs sufficient to meet public demand? If yes, just please say yes. If not, which program received more applications than it could be funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first answer is no and the second answer, I would have to sit here and look at the numbers before I can give him an answer. Maybe what I'll do is as I had indicated earlier, there were 835 applicants for the different programs that the corporation has.

Under the NDAP program, there were 69 applications; for the Material Assistance Program, there were 9 applications; for the Home Renovation Program, there were 300 applications; for the Emergency Repair Program, there were 150 applications; for the Senior Citizens Home Repair Program, there were 11 applications; for the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program, that one had 98 applications; and for the Homeowners Energy Efficiency Rebate, there were 198 applications.

Of the 835 applications that were received, there were 631 that were approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation anticipate that its 2009-2010

budget for homeownership programs will be sufficient to meet public demand for those programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the continued demand grows as it has in the past, I would have to say no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in addition to my colleague's, Mr. Komoartok, opening comments on behalf of the committee in regard to the rent scale.

Last year's business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicated that a workshop was held in Rankin Inlet in April of 2007 where the managers of all local housing organizations met with Nunavut Housing Corporation staff to provide input on how to revise the public housing rent scale. Findings of this workshop will be analyzed and submitted to Cabinet for approval for implementation in 2008.

What were the findings of this workshop and does the Nunavut Housing Corporation plan to make any changes to the current housing rent scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get the correct dates.

Mr. Chairman, the results of that workshop were included in a submission that the corporation had made to the Cabinet and I believe it was in March of 2008. Prior to anything happening as far changes to the rent scale or anything like that, it needs Cabinet approval.

Like I said, in the last Assembly, it was submitted to Cabinet to make recommendations and the corporation has yet to hear anything back on that. There was no movement on it since it was sent down for review of the Cabinet in the last Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What were some of the findings of this workshop; can you give us some examples? Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everyone that was at the workshop said the rent scale was great and just wanted to keep it the same. I'm just kidding, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I don't think I'm at the liberty to discuss some of the recommendations that were put forward because, like I said, any changes from there require Cabinet approval and I wouldn't want to put any information out there that could put new pressure, one way or another, on any decisions to be made in regard to those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2009-2010 business plan indicates that "There are approximately 261 leased public units throughout the territory. They create an opportunity for the private sector to provide much needed public housing rent supplement units without the capital expenditure required for the construction of new units."

Is the NHC considering leasing any additional units from the private sector for use as public housing? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to inform the member at this time that the corporation is not looking at leasing any new units for public housing. I must say that if the corporation were going that route, there would be a request for proposals put out there so that anyone interested in putting in a proposal for a leaseback unit would have an opportunity to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last time around when I had asked you a question, you had some housing units that were leased, that were boarded up, and you were paying the leases on them. I was just wondering if you checked into how many units there are

and if you stopped paying the leases on them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Sorry.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to inform the member and I am very happy to inform the member that all of the leased units that the member was referring to that are leased by the corporation are now occupied and inhabited.

The boarded-up units that he referred to are not leased by the Housing Corporation I'm not sure who else has leases on them, but it's not us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this year, you announced that the Nunavut housing survey would be conducted in March and April in order to provide current and real data to update the Nunavut 10-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan in order to secure additional funding that will address the growing housing crisis in Nunavut. As of today, what is the status of the housing survey? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I think the collection and provision of being able to have current and accurate data will really help the corporation, as he

indicated, in identifying our needs and also help us as far as planning goes as to where to direct our limited resources.

We had hoped to have the survey completed this spring. There was an initial partnership between Statistics Canada, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. There was an ad put out to look for individuals to go around and do the surveys in the communities. My understanding is they needed 60 to 70 individuals to be able to go out and do that, and there were only 16 applications received to do that work.

So the Housing Corporation is now pursuing a different partnership with the Nunavut Statistics Bureau to be able to assist us, along with Statistics Canada, to be able to hopefully or we should be able to get that questionnaire done this fall and have the results in the fall or winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NHC's response to the Auditor General's recent report indicated that the corporation agreed with the recommendation that the finalization of an overall Nunavut Housing Strategy is important. It also indicated that it has been working with a proponent on their proposal and expects a report in the fall of 2008.

NHC's December 2008 action plan indicated that it had been working with third party consultants to develop the framework for a strategic plan for housing delivery in Nunavut. This report should be finalized in the spring of 2009.

Which company was awarded the contract to develop a Nunavut-wide housing strategy and when will the strategy be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that a company called Nuna Burnside was awarded the contract to do that work and we're still working with them. We're hoping that we can have something by this fall to be able to bring forward in regard to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on the list. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$128,168,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his officials for being before the Committee of the Whole. I would like to ask Minister Tootoo if he has any closing comments.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just take this opportunity to thank the members. I believe there have been some very constructive questions and comments by them in order to support the Housing

Corporation in delivering housing throughout the territory.

I would also like to thank my staff for being here as well and I commend not only the staff that are sitting here with me at the witness table but all of the staff that work for the Housing Corporation for all of the fine work that they do and as I mentioned the other day, all of the LHO staff out there as well.

I would again like to thank the members for the issues and concerns that they have raised. They are very important issues throughout in every single one of our constituencies and I look forward to continuing to work with them to try and help address some of those needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo and your officials. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm getting a bit tired, so I would like to move to report progress if that's okay with you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and Mr. Ningark is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for June 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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

14. Tabling of Documents

15. Notices of Motions

16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 5

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m. (interpretation) in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 17:49*

