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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 12, 2010**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, 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 Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): A wonderful morning, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nunavummiut, and the people of Clyde River, especially my grandchildren.

Going to Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 115 – 3(2):
Support for Small Business**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide the Members of this House with information regarding the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's support for small businesses.

Small businesses play a vital role in the development of Nunavut's economy. They provide Nunavummiut with training and job opportunities to gain the skills and experience necessary to support our community-based sustainable economies. The range of goods and services provided by small businesses contribute to a greater quality of life for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation supports small businesses through its small business support, strategic investments, and arts and crafts development programs. These programs provide assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs in a wide variety of business areas.

In addition to its programs, the department provides assistance to its small business development partners through contributions to the regional chambers of commerce, the regional business development centres, the Canada-Nunavut business service centres, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. These organizations provide technical and financial support to Nunavut's small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the department is committed to supporting Nunavut's entrepreneurs and small businesses. It is through their efforts that Nunavut is building the foundation for sustainable economies for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 116 – 3(2):
Update on Nunavut Housing
Needs Survey**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to provide the hon. members and Nunavummiut with an update on the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey.

As you are aware, the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey is a territorial-wide housing survey sponsored by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, with support from Statistics Canada, is conducting the survey. The survey was launched in 13 communities in November and I am pleased to announce that the survey has been completed or is close to completion in seven communities. The survey is ongoing and we anticipate a positive response in the remaining communities.

The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey is an ambitious project. Once completed, this door-to-door survey will be delivered to the majority of Nunavut's homes, which are close to 9,000. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of the interviewers, all of whom are Nunavummiut, as well as to thank all of those who have participated in the survey.

The housing needs survey is an important opportunity for Nunavummiut to help build the future of housing in Nunavut. The survey results will help to

support the Government of Nunavut's efforts to secure adequate housing resources, as well as to develop housing initiatives that respond to the needs of Nunavummiut. We ask that all households in Nunavut participate in the official language of their choice. All responses will remain confidential.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all Nunavummiut for their support of the housing needs survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 117 – 3(2):
Promoting the Inuit language in
the Media**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Igloolik and Hall Beach residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to recognize the efforts made by the media in promoting and using our language. Many Nunavummiut were indeed delighted to watch on CBC North in January the Ottawa-Montreal hockey game all in Inuktitut.

>>Applause

On behalf of all Inuit hockey fans, I would like to say a big "thank you" to CBC North for organizing this event and more particularly, to Annie Ford and Charlie Panigoniak for a job well done.

>>Applause

More recently, I was even further pleased to watch the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics in Inuktitut on APTN. We were also thrilled to be able to follow in Inuktitut the Olympic Men's Hockey for both the semifinal and gold medal games. Thanks to Karliin Aariak, Abraham Tagalik, and Pujjuut Kusugak, they made us feel we were right there in Vancouver.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, these media events are important in ensuring our unilingual elders can enjoy and understand media services in their language, but also to promote our Inuit language among our youth. It is a demonstration that language matters. Please join me in encouraging our northern broadcasters to continue improving their services in the Inuit language, be it radio or TV. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 173 – 3(2): Congratulations to a New Member of the Family

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a brief Member's Statement. My family is in my thoughts today; my mother, my older brother, and my younger brother. It was in March 2008 that my father passed away.

A daughter was born to Sasha Aupaluktuq in the beginning of this March and the baby was named after my father. To the people of Baker Lake and Nunavummiut, my father's name is once again with us. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 174 – 3(2): Sean Nipisar Wins Gold at AWG

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. I also say "I love you" to my beloved grandchild. When people of Rankin Inlet see my granddaughter out and about, please acknowledge her on my behalf as I am absent and can only speak to her on the phone.

I am so glad that today is Friday and that Montreal had won yesterday.

>>Laughter

I am sure that Mr. Rumbolt is not too happy about that, but I am happy to say that his team also won a game.

We are all anxious to hear what is happening at the Arctic Winter Games. We try and watch everything coming out of the games on CBC Iglaaq to see if we can recognize anyone. I am very pleased about this.

I would like to say how proud I am of Sean Nipisar. He won gold yesterday in the triple jump game and I am proud of his accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 175 – 3(2):
Aboriginal Healing Foundation
Funding Ends**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clear that the Inuit of Nunavut continue to suffer the consequences of the residential school system. Many of our social and health problems, such as addiction, mental health, and suicide, can be linked to the legacy of the residential schools.

In 1998, the federal government put aside \$350 million to support community-based healing initiatives for Inuit, First Nations, and Métis communities. These funds were administered through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. With these funds, community-based groups across Nunavut have developed effective programs designed by and for the community. These grassroots programs have started many Inuit on their journey towards healing.

Mr. Speaker, the support from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation has allowed some very notable programs to be delivered through the following entities:

Qauma Mobile Treatment Program run out of NTI; Pujualussait Healing in Pangnirtung; Iisaaqsivik Society in Clyde River; Tukisigiavik Society in Iqaluit; and the Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speakers, their programs provide counselling and treatment in the areas of mental health, addictions, and violence.

Mr. Speaker, these programs are delivered in a traditional and culturally appropriate manner for their clients and community. Furthermore, the programs provide employment opportunities in the communities for full-time counsellors and program coordinators. They also provide seasonal employment for elders, hunters, sewing teachers, and guides.

With the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding coming to an end on March 31 of this year, 12 programs in Nunavut will have to stop the important work they are doing. Mr. Speaker, the momentum towards healing in our communities has begun. With the loss of these funds, the momentum and everything that these organizations have worked towards will be interrupted and in some cases, terminated.

Despite lobbying by Inuit, First Nations, and Métis groups across Canada to renew the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's funding allocation, the Government of Canada has chosen not to do so. Mr. Speaker, our territory is on the verge of losing some fundamentally important programs and services.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 223 – 3(2):
Support for Our Athletes**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asked an oral question by Ron Elliot, Member for Quttiktuq, numbered 223 – 3(2) on March 5, 2010.

My answer is quite lengthy, Mr. Speaker, so I would just like to give a written response to you so that it may be entered into the record as read, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

The registration fee for intercommunity sport events such as regional and territorial tournaments is set by the respective territorial sport organizations and sport clubs. The fee varies between \$150 and \$175 for the respective sports. This fee is made payable directly to the sport organization and is directed toward the sport organization's programs and services, such as training camps, and awards.

My department provides travel assistance funding to community sport groups through the Sport and Recreation Division. Travel assistance grants are administered to offset travel costs toward participation in intercommunity sport competitions, development camps or clinics within Nunavut. Travel assistance funding is allocated to applicants based on the most practical return travel cost identified in the travel assistance application.

Where the total amount of territorial travel assistance funding applications received exceeds budget limits, the maximum level of funding available within budget limits is provided to the

applicant on a percentage basis. This percentage allocation of travel assistance funding provides the communities facing the highest travel costs with the largest portion funding toward sport travel.

My department recognizes the value of regional and territorial tournaments to Nunavummiut of all ages. In 2008-09, applicants received 90 percent of the most economical return air fare to their event of choice. In 2009-2010, my department increased the level of funding available to applicants providing 95 percent of the travel costs to participants in sports, such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, and table tennis.

My staff continue to consult with community recreation leaders, territorial sport organizations, and coaches to establish event formats, and host sites that will accommodate annual variations in participant distribution, and increasing air travel costs. The Nunavut Soccer Association piloted an all-inclusive fee structure for regional tournaments in 2009-2010. In this format, all travel costs not accommodated through travel assistance grants were shared evenly by all participants regardless of community of origin. This pilot will be reviewed with participants prior to consideration for 2010-11 events.

My department remains committed to equitable access to sport, recreation, and physical activity programs for participants from all communities. The Sport and Recreation Division is addressing increased demand on intercommunity sport travel funding requests in consultation with community recreation leaders, territorial sport organizations, and schools via a thorough review of the host site

designation, event format, and funding allocation processes.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. His response will be entered into the record as read in the Assembly. Thank you.

Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Mr. Elliott.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the final day for our cadets from 795. I wish to thank you guys for coming all week.

Today, we have: Warrant Officer Second Class Colin Gunn, Flight Sergeant Daniel Anautak, Flight Corporal Tristan Campbell, Leading Air Cadet Rose Nangmalik, and Flight Corporal Cassandra Coman. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

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

Let me now recognize an individual who is here visiting us. Over there in the Gallery is Manasie Aulakiak. He is originally from Qikiqtarjuaq but moved to Clyde River quite a while ago. He has worked for the hamlet for a very long time as a heavy equipment operator. He has removed tremendous amounts of snow for us by now as it snows a lot in Clyde River.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

He has served in the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and has been politically involved in the development of fisheries in Nunavut since it began.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Jayko Alooooloo from Pond Inlet.

You have been hearing about the issues that Mr. Okalik and I especially have been raising all week. We have been asking questions and making statements in the House regarding the reduction of numbers for total allowable harvest of polar bears and why people who will lose out need compensation.

The thoughts and ideas I have expressed here come not from me but from Jayko Alooooloo. He is the president of the HTO in Pond Inlet and also serves as the chair of the regional wildlife organization. He gives me many great ideas to talk about in this House.

I would like us to welcome Mr. Jayko Alooooloo. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. If there are none... Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 269 – 3(2): Public Housing Rent Scale Review

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was glad to see the Hon. Minister Hunter Tootoo provide the Minister's Statement on the update of the Nunavut Housing Survey. As the minister is aware, there are some housing issues all across Nunavut. My questions, Mr. Speaker, are for the Hon. Minister Hunter Tootoo of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Last October, all Members of the Legislative Assembly met in this Chamber to review the findings of the government's report card project. Following our deliberations, we issued a communiqué that outlined a number of our collective priorities. One of the things that we announced was that and I quote, "comprehensive reviews of the public housing rent scale and the income support program are required. Caucus noted that these reviews should focus on identifying and removing disincentives to entering the workforce."

Can the minister outline for us today his timeline for undertaking and completing the public housing rent scale review?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. I know it's a question that is near and dear to close to 4,200 people across Nunavut's hearts.

Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, the rent scale that we have was something that was approved and introduced in January of 2003. There were some changes made from the rent scale that we inherited from the Northwest Territories. Since then, Mr. Speaker, I know there have been a couple formal reviews; there was one in October of 2003, there was one also in April 2007. I think, as the member pointed out and as we heard from Nunavummiut in the report card, they still have some concerns or questions, and/or looking for it to be reviewed.

I'm hoping, Mr. Speaker, that by the end of this month, to be able to have a plan as to where and when the corporation is planning on having a housing forum. We will bring all of the managers and all of the chairpersons of the LHOs from across the territory, as well as other interest groups like income support, social services, everybody who has a stake in that. One of the topics at this housing forum will be a detailed discussion on the rent scale.

So I'm hoping that by the end of this month, the plan will be set up in place as to where and when, and it will happen in this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. minister for that information. I'm sure that the rest of Nunavut will be eager to see what kind of production will be taking place, as well as acknowledging the real issues that are core of housing needs in all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the hon. minister is: in my community of Baker Lake, employment opportunities have recently increased as a result of the opening of the Meadowbank gold mine. However, a number of my constituents who have been successful in getting jobs have told me that their public housing rents have suddenly increased by anywhere from 100 percent to 300 percent once their income goes up.

Can the minister clarify how much notice public housing tenants are required to receive before their rents increase after they obtain employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. But again, I think that's something that the government and the corporation has addressed in the past and there is a lot of confusion out there on it as some individuals who gain employment throughout the year are still under the understanding that their rent, based on their income, changes immediately.

Mr. Speaker, there was a change. It used to be like that. Every month, they would go in and do a verification of income for the household. Given the fact that in the past that that did cause hardship on some individuals and it did create a disincentive for individuals to go to work, it was some of the changes that were made now.

Let's say if an individual starts work in any part of the year, they do not have to go in and do their verification of income

until they complete their income tax return for that year. So for example, if someone started employment in the middle of January, they wouldn't have to report and there would be no change on their rent until they filed their income tax and brought that to the tenant relations officer for that adjustment to be made. So that is in place right now.

One of the other things, Mr. Speaker, that if we recognize that there are a lot of employment opportunities that are casual or seasonal, if an individual has gained income and they're being assessed rent on that income, if that employment ceases, they are able to go in immediately when that happens and make that adjustment to their rent. So if they finish working and they no longer have income, they're able to go in and make that adjustment immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. minister for that response and educating me on that. I look forward to asking further questions as we have proper proceedings and forums.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that a couple of years ago, the government's 2008 Budget Address announced and I quote, "In recognition of the contribution from those who dedicate themselves to improving the services of the Government of Nunavut, I am pleased to announce that on April 1, 2008, our government will roll back staff housing rents to January 1, 2007 levels. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the cost of so many other necessities is

increasing, this is a 20 percent rent reduction in the emerging markets of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. For all other communities, it is a 10 percent decrease.”

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the GN staff housing rent reduction was appreciated by the civil service. However, I believe that we should also recognize the contributions of ordinary residents who make the effort to get off welfare and get jobs. Will the minister consider a reduction in the public housing rents that are charged to residents who work full-time, yes or no, and if not, why? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll attempt to answer all three questions. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the corporation will be holding a housing forum this fiscal year. One of the things that we will be addressing at that point is the commitment that this government made to review the rent scale. I think it would be premature to make any adjustments until such time as all of that input from all of the stakeholders and everybody has been received.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that, as far as the public housing rent scale, the sliding scale goes anywhere from \$60 a month to around \$1,650 a month. It is the maximum rent that anyone pays. According to that scale, again, it's based on income. The staff housing rates, I think there's not much out there that the staff are paying that is less than \$1,600 a month. So there is a difference in that. That is something that will be discussed.

I wouldn't want to be premature and make any decisions on that until the forum is held and everyone has had their say. We can then take the information that we get at that forum from everybody and bring forward a comprehensive set of changes and not just the one-off changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Before we proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq, I recognized only one question from your last supplementary. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm learning on the job and I'm trying to see if I can maximize my questions, so I appreciate that. I also appreciate the hon. minister's response as well.

Once you have completed your housing forum and the core issues and possible solutions are identified in regard to housing in Nunavut, how quickly will the Housing Corporation implement and resolve the identified core issues or even possible solutions?

My question, Mr. Speaker, is: would you be able to implement possible solutions and identify what the main issues are with the rest of the Legislative Assembly? How soon would you be able to do that after your housing forum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I wish I could answer the member's question with a finite number. I think that it would be something impossible to do at this point,

depending on the feedback that we get. I don't think that if we don't come out very quickly, we will be accused, "Oh, you guys had it all planned out already." I want to assure the member that that's not the case.

We will take seriously into consideration all of the comments that we hear at this forum from all of the stakeholders and develop or come up with something based on that. If it's identified that some things need to be changed and suggestions as to what those changes would be, then we would have to take a look at them and then try and integrate it all into something that would have to be brought forward by the corporation, developed into a new rent scale and brought forward to Cabinet for approval, and then it would be shared with all Members of the House and all of the public.

I think that it's again an important thing to say that we don't want to say we're going to have it by a certain date, but it will be, and I can commit to the member there, a priority of the corporation. It has been mentioned as a priority of this government and as soon as we possibly can, that information will be brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not have my hand up to ask a question. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: I'm sorry. I suggest you stop scratching your head.

>> *Laughter*

Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 270 – 3(2): Compensation for Polar Bear Outfitters and Harvesters

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All my previous thoughts just fell off me (reacting to laughter).

I will direct my question to the Premier. She has the discretion to pass the question on to any one of her ministers, but my question is directed to her as she is the head of the government.

For the past few days now, I have been asking questions about the loss of livelihood that the people are now experiencing with respect to wildlife, especially the outfitters who assist in polar bear hunts for wealthy sport hunters. Is the government going to develop a policy to compensate the outfitters in Nunavut for this loss? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for posing that question.

It's obvious that this issue is going to have a profound impact on the people of Nunavut, especially those who make their living on polar bear sport hunts. This is an important issue and as a government, we are all very concerned

about this. That is why we hope to move on this issue with a long-term view.

As the Minister of Environment said in response to some of the questions raised, the government is seeking ways on how to better provide programs to the outfitters through existing businesses and to set up training programs for those affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard clearly what the Minister of Environment said in his statement. He never made any references to any financial compensation. Instead, he referred to existing programs that would be brought to bear to offer alternative business options for the Inuit guides and outfitters who currently make their living catering to sport hunts.

However, we are all aware that the majority of those affected have no experience running a business. Their only true knowledge and expertise is the land, the environment, as well as their traditional culture. We try and represent our fellow Inuit because we feel for them and identify with them.

Let me give you an example of our identity with them. A new piece of legislation was enacted in the House for the Department of Education. Why? Because we want to ensure a better foundation for our children's education and their future here. We also enacted the Language Protection Act, which relates to the protection of languages, especially the Inuit language. We did all

of this so we would not lose our language here in Nunavut.

As a government, we provide financial aid to most students attending Arctic College, whether they attend NTEP, nursing, or any other program. We provide this funding so that students can focus on their studies and not have to worry about their families and how they will be fed. Now, why should we treat those individuals who are impacted by our policies on polar bears any differently? These people are not only losing their main source of income; they are also losing their chosen profession.

Regarding the export ban on polar bears from EU and the USA, will this government be monitoring this situation closely? Does it promise to try and give fair and equitable treatment to those individuals affected by the polar bear export ban as they do to the rest of Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important to seek out viable solutions, especially now, since we are all impacted by this issue. We are all concerned by this. As a government, we want to help those affected by this change by involving them in seeking solutions. As you look around this room, it is all men who are sitting here, all who are hunters. They are rightly concerned over this issue.

As a government of this age, I cannot make decisions on these issues based only on my wishes. We work together and decide on issues as a Caucus. I know

that we will work together on this and consult on what and which direction we should be going on this. We are cognizant of the harmful implications this issue has on Inuit of Nunavut, especially the hunters who hunt polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that there are three communities that are especially impacted by this: Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Clyde River, and that he would like to visit these communities to talk about this issue and about the reductions in total allowable harvest numbers for polar bears in Davis Strait. The total reduction proposed is ten bears per year for four years, which comes to 40 bears off the quota.

Will the minister, before his visits to these communities, direct the government to develop a policy to give financial compensation for those who will lose out in potential revenues in these affected communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and for the question. As a government, we would give compensation immediately to those affected if we had the money, but we unfortunately don't.

This being the case, we will work closely with the federal government and through consultations to come to some

solution. So I'm reiterating that again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure I know what the Premier is saying.

However, we can say offhand that if we use the moratorium of recent memory in the McClintock Channel near Cambridge Bay as precedence for compensation, that \$200,000 was made immediately available to those affected. I know that there are differences in these two situations, but the fact remains that there was loss of income from the moratorium on polar bear hunts and the hunters there received help.

We would like to be kept abreast of future planned ministers' visits, which are rare to our communities. We hope that the minister will have something good and useful to say when he goes to Pond Inlet, Clyde River, or Qikiqtarjuaq. I would like him to give a message on what the government is planning to do with this issue. I would like Inuit and the hunters to know what is going to be happening to them.

Would the Premier be accompanying the Minister of Environment when he tours these communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my

colleague, I, too, concurred with what the minister stated. During our deliberations regarding this matter, we spoke to the three communities most impacted by this ban, namely Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Communication is the most important aspect, specifically proper communication between the government and the communities. This applies especially to current government initiatives, past initiatives, as well as news releases. Many communities have many news items that are broadcast on their local radios.

So my expectations are that the issues will surface, that their views and opinions, and/or their needs or requests will be voiced. This relates to proper communication. At this time, I don't have my travel schedule handy, so I cannot commit to attending this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 271 – 3(2): Municipal Funding Levels

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I want to revisit an issue that I raised yesterday in the House. I don't think that I got a clear answer, so I'm going to try again today. The department provides over \$35 million per year in core funding to municipalities. This funding is for hamlets to provide services and hire staff. I raised concerns yesterday

about whether the funding is sufficient for municipalities to attract and retain qualified employees.

Can the minister indicate whether his department views the current levels of funding as being adequate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my hon. colleague for asking the question. Like any other funds, we can always do with more and the more we get, the more we can do in municipalities and other areas.

To date, to fund the municipalities, I believe it's adequate and like anything else, it would be nice to have more funding, but I believe that with the funding that they're doing, there is enough money there to carry on the duties of the municipalities to run the government and municipality, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted yesterday, both the minister and I are former mayors and we both know that making ends meet in municipalities can be tough.

Oftentimes, funding allocations for municipal governments differ quite a bit from what funding is allocated for GN employees. Does the department have any plans to review its municipal funding policy and if not, why not? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I want to thank the hon. colleague for the question. I always enjoyed the years where my colleague and I sat many a round table discussing how we could get more from the government in order to make our municipalities more efficient and be able to do more, and that was always a difficult challenge at best.

Mr. Speaker, our department is constantly looking at ways to improve funding to the municipalities and I believe that we take that challenge on seriously. We have some examples of that in terms of creating block funding for mobile equipment in municipalities. It is one step that we have taken of many to start trying to find out ways we can better fund the municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, we're constantly challenging ourselves in the department to see how we could better work and fund the municipalities so that they could run a more effective and efficient municipal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is already in a lot better position than I am in order to make a difference for funding allocations for municipal governments in the capacity of being the Minister of CGS.

As the minister and I has been aware over the years, we have always talked about municipal governments not having

adequate funding. I would like to ask the minister if he's prepared to commit to reviewing the municipal funding policy so as to alleviate part the problem when it comes to hiring SAOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my hon. colleague for the question. I agree with my colleague; it's always a challenge to get senior administrative officers in municipalities. I am pleased to note that right now, I believe there's only one municipality that doesn't have an administrator. Unfortunately, it is the one in your riding.

We are constantly looking for ways to attract qualified individuals for those positions. Sometimes it's not necessarily always the salary that's an issue. There are other positions out there that the qualified individuals seek. It's often a challenge just to attract people. Other than financial issues, there are many other variables in attracting individuals.

Our department, with the municipalities, is constantly seeking ways of attracting qualified individuals who want to work in making our communities in Nunavut a better place in which to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that there are many factors that can be enhanced within the municipal governments, but the problem seems to exist throughout communities

in Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister: when was the last time a review was done on the municipal funding policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I don't have that detail in front of me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Question 272 – 3(2): Sunset of
Aboriginal Healing Foundation
Funding**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the government is aware of the fact that the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding is ending. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The programs that I described in my Member's Statement focused on healing, harm reduction, and counselling, all areas which fall under the umbrella of

Health and Social Services. What is the minister's department doing to ensure that these essential programs will continue in our community? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, I think the question is really much broader than what it appears to be. These programs were contribution agreements directly with the federal government, not through the Department of Health and Social Services.

My colleagues are well aware of the cancellation and I know my colleague, the Premier, has been in contact with the various issues, including the cancellation of the National Aboriginal Healing Fund. We have expressed that disappointment through the Premier's Office.

To be specific, my department was not directly administering that part of the program, so I'm not 100 percent prepared to respond in detail. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the federal government will no longer be supporting these programs in our communities through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, is your department willing to allocate some of the renewed Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative funding that has been earmarked for health programs to these community-based programs to ensure that they have adequate funds to continue their valuable work? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is committed to helping any services that we can provide, whether it be related to any social or healing programs that we have on our books, if we have any.

At the moment, the federal government has contributed substantially over a number of years. On this particular program, I don't believe the health sustainability initiative is really the area that we are prepared to do because it's really quite specific not only to Nunavut but also to the Yukon and the NWT. As a result of that, my colleagues and I will continue to press the federal government to see if there is any way that we can perhaps find a way to provide some sort of funding.

But to try and suggest that we would find an equal amount of funding for what they had contributed before, it's really going to be difficult to do so. We will do our part. We recognize the importance of that and we will not, in any way, compromise our commitment to our people, particularly to Nunavutmiut. We will do our best to lobby the feds on this issue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that being said, will the minister commit to working with his colleagues and counterparts in other jurisdictions to identify those programs and help the communities access additional funding sources for the community-based grassroots programs? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I will do that. I will continue to update the Members of the House if we have made any progress.

I would also like to open communications with our partners in Nunavut, particularly NTI and all of the Inuit organizations. I think it's time to review all of our funding programs to see if there is any way that we can partner with them and find a way to make it more maybe with less, but to find a way to effectively carry out the work that is being done. We are grateful for all of the work that these groups have done for Nunavutmiut and it's, in a way, sad that the federal government has chosen to cancel the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

I am committed to working with all of the groups and I will continue to discuss with the partners, particularly the Inuit organizations, because I think that by pooling some programs along with the feds, we can probably find a way to continue in some way. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 273 – 3(2): Water Subsidy for Municipalities

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. I wish my wife, Celine, a good day in Kugaaruk. I'm going to direct my question to the Minister of CGS, (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

(interpretation) In Nunavut, sometimes the municipalities go into debt because of difficulties with their finances, especially for the communities that are not tax-based. When they go into a deficit situation, they start cutting programs and services. It's no wonder. It's at the discretion of the municipality and they have been empowered to make cutbacks.

I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of CGS, Minister Kusugak. The Water Subsidy program is not for liquor, it's a water subsidy. Is it at to the discretion of the municipality to administer that or is the municipality not allowed to cut the Water Subsidy program?

I was told by one homeowner that their invoice used to be cheaper with the Water Subsidy program, but it became very expensive once the subsidy was removed. Is it at to the discretion of the municipality to take out the Water Subsidy program in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. We normally have agreements on the Water Subsidy program and we provide municipal subsidies for water and sewage services. They vary from municipality to municipality. If it's in the agreement with the municipality, the municipality has the discretion to administer that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. When he says that when they administer that, does he mean that it's at the community's discretion? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. If the provisions for water and sewer are in the municipal agreements, then the municipality has the discretion to administer that.

Municipal agreements vary from community to community. For example, the municipality may be given authority to administer the water delivery and Water Subsidy program. If that provision is in their agreement, then they have the discretion. If it's outside of the agreement, then it's not up to municipality to administer that. As long it's in the provisions of the agreement, the municipality has the discretion to administer that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister very much for the clarification. During the second session, prior to us going back home, can the minister provide me with a clarification by way of correspondence with the provisions they

have in their municipal agreement?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. What would you like clarified in the municipal agreement? It contains a lot of various items. It is an agreement between the Department of Community and Government Services and the Hamlet of Kugaaruk. What is the member seeking? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking clarification to your question, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. I hope that this does not take away from my ability to ask further questions.

As the minister stated earlier, this Water Subsidy program varies between communities. With respect to the arrangements between Hamlet of Kugaaruk and his department, I wonder if he can elaborate on the water subsidy agreement and whether the hamlet has the discretion to disburse the subsidy. Does the agreement stipulate that the subsidy has to be allocated to residents equitably in the Hamlet of Kugaaruk?

I am unsure as to whether private businesses and the GN buildings are included. I was wondering if that Water Subsidy program was supposed to be applied to them as well. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that agreement in front of me for the community of Kugaaruk as to whether the Water Subsidy program has been cut off. I don't have the detailed information with me, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he doesn't have the information in front of him. I didn't hear him say that once he gets the information, he will consult with me and let me know. Will the minister let me know once he gets that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course. Once I get that information, I will come to his office and provide him with a copy and try to give him further clarification. We can discuss what exactly he is concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking me those questions.

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

Question 274 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut Lobbyist for Devolution

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I submitted a document yesterday to be tabled respecting our

supposed representatives in Ottawa who will have to go before committees in Parliament.

I could hardly contain my disbelief when I saw the listed company. I didn't know that we had started to undertake this type of contract, simply due to the continued rhetoric from our government that our funds are very limited and that we cannot fund everything. In looking at this contract, my perception is that our government has simply thrown Nunavut money into the wastebasket. That is why I wish to redirect this question to the Premier. How did this company get hired?

In my experience, Mr. Nault was the biggest obstacle we faced and here we have him representing us as the chief negotiator. Since partisan politics hold sway, how can he be heard when his party is no longer in power? This seems to be contrary to our goal of devolution. So I ask: what process was used to select this person to represent us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. The individual was not meant to represent us long term. Mr. Nault was once the Minister of DIAND in a previous government. He was just brought in for the short term and he worked on a specific project. He was hired in December and he left after just a few days. As a matter of fact, he worked for only a two-day period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here we are, continually rebuffed by our government whenever we request funding by their contention that we have scarce resources to apply towards our fellow Nunavut residents. Yet, here we have a transient non-resident who, due to partisan politics, will not be very effective. It seems we have just thrown a lot of money towards this individual for his benefit only.

How much was this individual paid? As the Premier alluded, this individual worked for just two days. Yet, we have not been informed as to the amount for his short-term contract. How much was he paid? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to state that this topic related to devolution of powers is a critically important priority for this government and I know for a fact that this is an issue dear to my colleague's heart.

In his previous position, my colleague was on record as stating that he felt that the devolution process would be completed by the end of the year 2008. However, it has become apparent that this is a very complex and challenging process to undertake.

Further, it has proven to be a long and winding path towards attaining devolution and it seems that this will be

an ongoing file. I have made this a top priority for this government due to the importance of devolving more powers from the federal government to Nunavummiut.

Additionally, with respect to Mr. Nault, whom he referenced, he was hired on a sub-contractual basis and he was hired for a portion of the contract. However, as the member knows, as a government, we cannot go make personal inquiries without a knowledgeable consultant who is aware of the requirements to complete the devolution process.

Mr. Nault was retained due to his intimate knowledge of the process required to complete devolution as he was involved in the negotiations in prior years. It was due to his expertise in this area that he was hired for a short-term contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is avoiding the question as I did not hear a response to my query about the cost. I ask again: how much was the cost of this contract?

In the past, when I was involved with the devolution discussions, the Prime Minister and I came to a common agreement that we would try to complete the negotiations on devolution by the end of the calendar year 2008. This was not my personal statement but an agreement between the Premier of Nunavut and the Prime Minister of Canada.

However, it was only when this individual, Mr. Nault, was transferred out of that portfolio did we make any progress on the file. Mr. Nault was not very supportive of our efforts to devolve more powers. It was only due to his removal from that department that we started to make some progress. With that kind of historical opposition, why has our government appointed this individual to represent us on this file and how much did that cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Arvaluk: Good question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Mr. Nault, he has a vast amount of experience with the devolution process and further, he was involved when the Yukon government undertook their devolution negotiations. He believes in the principle of devolution. He has the trust of political parties based on his experience. He is also familiar with the underlying legislation related to this process.

If my esteemed colleague was unaware of this fact, (interpretation ends) in order to have conversations with Members of Parliament and government on Parliament Hill, individuals must be registered as a lobbyist. (interpretation) That firm was registered. All of the lobbyists had to be registered. His name was registered even though he was going to work for a short period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How much did it cost the Nunavut government? We have always been told that we have limited resources. How much did it cost? That is my question. That's my second question. I am repeating my question. It seems like I'm asking my questions to thin air because I never got an answer to my question.

This individual was not very supportive of Nunavut. The only way he was able to move forward with devolution talks is when he was no longer in that position. Now we pay him additional dollars. He was unable to help Nunavummiut, the people we are trying to help. How much did it cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He is very experienced on devolution talks. I want the member to know that we only used him for a few days. I'm sorry that I don't have the information as to the costs in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 275 – 3(2): \$20,000 Contract with NorthMart

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moving on to another

topic, when we first started our sitting, I asked the minister in regard to the tea leaf balls. She was going to review it and a week has passed, so I was wondering if she has looked into the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I looked into this. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of Nunavut. All of the Nunavut communities were provided funding to help with the celebrations. I remember going up to Pond Inlet to start the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Nunavut. We had to provide a contribution. This was a ball for loose tea leaves. Loose tea leaves were used in recognition that in the past, that's the type of tea that we used to have. Even when I was growing up, that was the only tea we had.

The anniversaries have different gift ideas. Gold is for certain years, but the symbol for the 10th anniversary is tin. The tea leaf balls were given out to the people. There was a note in there of how Inuit tea was made and this is vegetation that grows in Nunavut. It connects to our culture and they were provided to the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time I have seen this, so I had to ask why they were handing out those tea leaf balls. I am a tea drinker and I only drink loose tea

leaves. I visited many communities of Nunavut and not all of the stores have loose tea leaves available. So that's why I asked how it's going to be useful for my fellow Nunavummiut. That's why I wanted to ask that question to the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. That was a comment and I'm sure that it's duly noted. Oral Questions. If there are no more... Mr. Schell.

Question 276 – 3(2): Election of DEAs under New Education Act

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

In the new *Education Act*, it states that all local DEA members will have to be re-elected in the first election following the passing of the Act. The first election was held this past December and many of the communities I have canvassed didn't follow this. Can the minister tell me why this was not followed and when a by-election will be called to remedy this very serious oversight? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We ran into a problem with the DEA election in Cape Dorset because we were unable to fill the seats. We had to make a decision on that. Even though it's a bit late, we wanted to hold a by-election to make sure that the seats were filled.

The new *Education Act* states that DEA members will have three-year terms. During the first election, the people with the most votes will be in for three years and the people with less numbers of votes will have a one-year term. Once this has been in place, we will start following the three-year term for DEA elections as the Act stipulates, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is: when will the by-election be held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): At this time, I don't have the exact date. Once I get the information, I will get back to the member, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Schell. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Schell.

Item 7: Written Questions

**Written Question 014 – 3(2):
Operations of the Nunavut Liquor
Commission**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It should be no surprise that I will be asking the Hon. Keith Peterson, the Minister of Finance, the question on the operation of the Nunavut Liquor Commission.

- 1) Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009, broken down by product category and country of origin, what quantities of liquor were purchased by the Nunavut Liquor Commission?
- 2) As of March 12, 2010, broken down by product category and country of origin, what quantities of liquor are currently available for sale from the Nunavut Liquor Commission's warehouse facilities in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet?
- 3) What methodology does the Nunavut Liquor Commission use to determine which liquor products to import into Nunavut for sale to residents of the territory and licensed establishments from its warehouse facilities in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet?
- 4) What is the minimum quantity of liquor originating from countries in the European Union that the Nunavut Liquor Commission is legally required to order on an annual basis and make available for sale from its warehouse facilities in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet?
- 5) What legal requirements exist that require the Nunavut Liquor Commission to order on an annual basis a minimum quantity of liquor originating from countries in the European Union?

I would just like to mention that if there is a legal requirement, hopefully there will be none ordered on the next sealift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

**Committee Report on Bills 007 – 3(2):
Bill 14, Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Bill 14 will be placed on the order paper starting on March 17.

(interpretation ends) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

**Committee Report on Bills 008 – 3(2):
Bill 21, An Act to Amend the
Utility Rates Review Council Act**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing

Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Bill 21 will be placed on the order paper for Wednesday, March 17.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 128 – 3(2): CBC North Clipping: “Nunavut Premier wants EU barred from Arctic Council”

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, the Premier claimed that it's not the Inuit way to retaliate when you suffer injustice.

I wish to table a news item from last April. The item is titled “Nunavut Premier wants EU barred from the Arctic Council.” If that's not retaliation, I don't know what is. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. 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. Bill 22 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

I would ask that you remain in your seats so that we can proceed directly into Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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 item to deal with: Bill 22. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 22 and the main estimates for fiscal year 2010-11. Today, we will continue with the review of the Department of Community and Government Services and if time permits, commence the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we deal with the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Kathleen Lausman, the Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, and to my right is Alma Power, Director of Financial Services for CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Since this is the continuation of our committee meeting from yesterday, I will not bother to read out the rules.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Minister Kusugak and his officials. I don't have any questions at this point. As elected officials, we have to make acknowledgements and not only focus on the negatives.

On page 3 of the Hon. Lorne Kusugak's opening comments, the Municipal Training Organization has made a significant contribution to the communities and one of them is Kugaaruk. As a training organization, they provide a much needed support in the communities. I know that in Kugaaruk, even though I didn't participate in their training activities, they not only provide training on the administrative aspects of running a government but also running committees which need assistance. They provide a great deal of help on fire and safety issues. They have offered over 6,500 training days. This is something that I'm very happy about and I hope it is not forgotten in the future.

On page 5, under energy management initiatives, we know that since the creation of hamlet councils, we had been given some authority. Some hamlets experienced deficits, so they had to make some cutbacks. Usually, the government sends a government administrator to help out with the hamlets in question. We, in turn, take on efficiency measurements to reduce heating and energy expenditures.

Perhaps I can ask a question at this time. I believe the communities were going to be receiving a visit from consultants. I might be wrong, but if I'm correct, when are these consultants going to be coming into the communities? If I'm incorrect in this case, I apologize ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

the member for his constructive comments as it is quite uplifting to hear this type of endorsement, especially as the minister responsible for this division. What I can state on their behalf is that our officials who offer courses under the Municipal Training Organization always appreciate support and endorsement, including vindication of their tremendous efforts. Therefore, I thank you on their behalf.

This type of training is conducive to the employees who partake in these courses as it allows them to increase their capacity and offers more options in their chosen careers. It is very helpful to the communities and we cannot even meet the demands for more training courses. In particular, the courses related to emergency preparation and measures are immensely popular. Many of these local leaders have given of themselves to ensure that they are fully prepared for any type of emergencies that may occur in their community.

As an example, the firefighters are the usual first response teams and they fight fires while placing themselves in harm's way in order to try and save their fellow residents. The fire rescue courses offer training in locating victims, entering a building, and these courses are quite intense and are not to be taken lightly. These volunteers are amongst the most dedicated and committed members of local emergency response teams.

I thank you for appreciating and recognizing Nunavummiut who do work on a volunteer basis, who give themselves completely to provide safety and emergency services to the people in communities.

We keep looking at how we can operate or maintain our facilities more efficiently and I believe the whole world is looking at improving the energy efficiency of buildings, lighting, fuel, heating, and so on.

You asked if the consultants are going to the communities now. Yes, they are, but not all communities have received a visit to date. Some communities have had their visits. Before the end of this fiscal year, we are hoping that all Nunavut communities will have received a visit from those consultants. They will be dialogued on improving their energy systems and other issues. We would like the remaining communities that haven't been visited to be patient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are on page 2 of the minister's opening comments where he talks about his department continuing to support communities in developing integrated community sustainability plans. He also mentioned the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. I know in the past, he has talked about this, but I just wonder if he could refresh my memory as to who's on the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. I'll gladly refresh his memory. There are three members sitting on the Nunavut

Infrastructure Advisory Committee from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

So there are three mayors on that committee, there are two people on that committee from our department who work with them, and also, we have one individual on there from the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that answers his question.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that answer. In terms of the integrated community sustainability plans, I understand that projects are supposed to be finished by the end of this year, where every community will have a plan completed.

Where some people are getting confused is: could the minister explain how this is different than the actual capital planning process that's done by hamlets in terms of requesting or asking for what types of infrastructure needed inside the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that question. It gives me an opportunity to clarify. Yes, there were questions. I think the difference is, when we ask for requests for capital projects, it's usually a top ten list or priority list, whereas this group that is travelling to the communities is doing a much more thorough study in terms of what is there. Is what's there adequate? If not, how it could be made better? What kind of infrastructure is

there? What kind of work does it need to be improved? Is that adequate? And so on.

It goes way beyond a list of what we need in our community. It actually helps deal with inventory issues and it encompasses a whole lot more than what we require. It also deals with long-term planning in the municipality. So it doesn't just focus on what we need today; it also encompasses the whole thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question is: is it representatives from Community and Government Services and your department that will be travelling to the communities to do this in-depth study since they have a better understanding of our communities and what their needs are or is it a consulting firm that's going in to do this? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Our department is not working on it; we have a consulting firm that is going in there and carrying out the duties as outlined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess a consulting firm is going in. I never actually saw the tender advertising that program. Was this a year ago that

this happened or recently? I tried to watch to see. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was a standing offer with a consulting firm. The whole process of doing community visits just started this fall, before Christmas, and that is why they haven't been able to reach all of the communities at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister said that part of the program or part of what the consulting firm will be doing when they go in is to do a more in-depth analysis of what the needs are for the community. When the consulting firm goes into the community, how long are they in the community?

Since it's going to be a huge analysis of all of the different aspects of what assets the community owns and whatnot, are they going to be in there for a week or two weeks to get a good gauge of the age of the equipment that is there, how the equipment is stored, and what repairs need to be done? Is this like a weeklong project that they are in there or two weeks? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you for the question. Yes, you are right, it may take a week, two weeks, or three days. It depends on how long it takes for the

consulting firm to carry out the work in the communities. I'm sure they will vary drastically between the communities, the size of the communities, and the work that needs to be done in them.

There is no fixed criteria as per fly in at noon and be out tomorrow by dinner. It depends on exactly how long they need to do those things that my colleague outlined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said that the work started in September and it's going on until the end of the year. On average, how long are they spending in the communities?

One of the things that I don't want to have happen in my communities is we have consultants come in all of the time and talk to the communities and say, "What do you want?" And the community gets excited and says, "Well, we want a swimming pool. We want a curling rink. We want a new high school." So you know, they express their feelings, they say what they want, everyone writes down everything on chart paper, and then the consultants go away. A year or two years later, I'm sure some of the community residents will come back to us and say, "We had that meeting to talk about getting that new swimming pool. Where is it and what is happening with it?"

Is this consulting firm making the community aware that this is an exercise in generating ideas and looking at the sustainability projects for these or are we going to have a misunderstanding? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question. Since before Christmas, they have been going to communities. I hope that they're not doing that and that's not the intent of the scope of the work that's being done. I hope they're not going into Resolute Bay and say, "What do you want? Okay, let me get out of here and I'll let your MLA ask questions on it." I really hope that's not what's happening. That's not the intent of this. The intent of this is to work with the municipalities. When I say municipalities, I mean the whole community.

I have been working with all of the mayors through the regional and pan-Nunavut meetings of the mayors. I have been informing them on the upcoming visits to their communities. The communities that have been visited have said that it's been a very worthwhile event in their community. It includes the council and it includes the many other committees in the community that want to be part of it. We're hoping that as many members in the community can partake in it as possible. That's the message we're relaying onto the municipality.

I really hope that this isn't going to be an exercise of getting another document that will collect dust until my colleagues start asking questions about it. That's not the intent of this and that's not the mission of this work that's going to be done. Hopefully, it will be one that will bear fruit to benefit the communities and at the end of the day, the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When can we expect to see these finalized documents? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: As we stated when we started this, we are expecting the finalization of this work to be done at the end of the calendar year. Some time after that, we would gladly share the information with you and the municipalities that participated, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is great because I know in Arctic Bay, specifically, we have a very active economic development committee and they take on a lot of extra projects. They did a five-year economic development plan and they're updating it themselves now. That's where some of the confusion was coming in.

These people were wondering in terms of what we do in Arctic Bay. It's sort of like a holistic approach where you're including everything from health and different things like that. What you're saying is document will be able to supplement that. Will this document actually be recognized by the other departments of government?

An issue that kept coming up when we were talking about the Department of Education yesterday is the lack of daycares in the community. When this

consulting firm goes in there and talks about this community that does not have a daycare and requires funding for this daycare, we would then actually be able to take that document and go to ED&T and say, "This is what the community says. This is what CGS says. Can you access funding? Are we able to do that?"

Is that the intent or am I misunderstanding the intent of this project? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. No, please don't share it with my colleagues. No, I'm kidding.

>> *Laughter*

Of course, the intent of this document is to integrate all departments where necessary. It will encompass all of the departments that are affected by it, like you say, the Department of Education or Economic Development, and many other factors, as much of it as possible.

The idea behind this is for our government to be more effective and efficient in terms of dealing with the needs of municipalities not just in running a municipality but also the different government departments that this will help. I think this is long needed and it can only help the different levels of government in terms of seeing what is required and what is sufficient in every municipality in Nunavut, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those answers. I think that's excellent and that's exactly what I want to hear. I would like to applaud his department's work on this. To me, if we're going to work towards self-reliance within our communities, we have to have the communities realizing, "If you have a swimming pool in your community, do you have the capacity to be able to maintain that swimming pool?"

We have an arena in Arctic Bay, but sometimes it's hard finding the proper staff to create ice. So when you've got something like a swimming pool that requires life guards and safety issues and all of that, sometimes it's hard explaining to our constituents why these things aren't possible. You need to have some type of a plan to be able to build the capacity within your community.

So I wanted to get those questions ironed out to make sure it's not a duplication of what some of the communities are trying to do. I'm sure you probably find every community is different in terms of the capacity and ability, how well their economic development committee works and how well the hamlet works with the SAO.

It's great that this is happening. I look forward to March 31 when this comes about. Thank you. That was a comment, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Elliott, for those comments. Could you just make a

motion then to approve our budget?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I have no more names on our list, so therefore... Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5 of your opening comments in the third paragraph with respect to energy savings and energy management initiatives which include improving the energy efficiency of designs, lighting, heating systems, and maintenance, that's wonderful.

However, there is also the responsibility, and I don't know who's responsibility or which department's responsibility, to make people aware who are not paying for energy, whether it's fuel or electricity, who are on income support, who can crank up their heat as much as they want and leave the lights on all night or all day, especially when we have the sun shining 24 hours a day, the lights are still on completely.

I have been informing the public that it's those who are working and paying taxes in the income tax who are paying for these services, who sometimes some people carelessly neglect just simply because they're not paying for it. Are you doing something to let the public know that everything costs money and it's the tax payers who are paying for it? Your neighbours are paying for it. You should somehow at least create some type of incentive to be responsible users of this scarce energy. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. It is an issue that the departments and the corporations responsible tackle every day through their, in this case, housing associations of municipalities. I know they try to do as much as they can in terms of asking people to shut their windows and turn down the furnace.

I'm sure that my colleague and the Members of the Assembly have often seen where, in January, windows are open and the furnace is turned up. It's their form of air conditioning and it's a very wasteful use of the scarce energy we have. I can assure the member that the departments that are affected by this have, through their staff and through the local housing associations, and so on, notified the public to ensure that they're not just running water on a hose when they have a water tank and turning the lights off.

I concur with my colleague on the need to inform the public in turning lights off when you don't need them. I know the government has, through the department of energy, distributed thousands of light bulbs to people who want them and I can only hope that people out there, when they purchase bulbs, are switching to the more energy efficient ones.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and I thank my colleague for the concern.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Just one more question. Those lights are very energy efficient, except they don't work in my shack in the wintertime. It takes about half an hour for them to eventually start working.

On the last paragraph of page 5, can you tell me if you have a plan now that's written down as to how you are determining that the HVAC system energy performance will be funded through energy savings? Can you give me a little bit more tangible information on how that will happen? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program is working pretty well in those areas that we have been working on it, but as for the details of that, if you may permit my deputy to get into the details of that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just briefly answer that. There are an awful lot of tests that are done prior to actually calculating the available energy savings versus the cost. It's based on power metre readings. It's based on balance testing for HVAC airflow. It's based on the efficiency of lights.

Right now, we're doing a first run with our own building and we're actually testing motion detectors for lighting to see how well that works. We're doing that to get it right before we fan it out to

other buildings and that will help fine-tune costs calculated to actually do this work as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Since I don't have any more names, we will be going right into the page-by-page of the main estimates.

We will now break for lunch and I would like to ask the members to be here exactly at 1:00 p.m. because we're scheduled to conclude the session today at two o'clock. So come back at one o'clock, please. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 11:59 and resumed at 12:59

Chairman: Thank you. Just before the break, I stated that we will go right into the page-by-page. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,123,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to J-5. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$58,331,000. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the recent Baffin mayors annual meeting, they were reported as stating that hamlets may soon receive block funding from the GN to make their own decisions about where to spend money on recreational needs, such as they did this year for rolling stock and other heavy equipment. Does your department plan to set up a recreation block fund similar to the Mobile Equipment Block

Funding Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. We're at the exploratory stage, Mr. Chairman. I'll be working with the Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation. We're at the very infancy stage of that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm asking is because we've had some concerns about the block funding for mobile equipment. Obviously, we don't think it's enough there and I'm just wondering why you're going the same direction here with the recreational needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, he referred to it as the rolling stock, which is the mobile equipment block funding. That is a very positive start and when you do the math, the funding for mobile equipment has actually increased compared to before when you look at the numbers.

In terms of taking a look at that for recreational funds, again, we're at the infancy stage. The questions that our colleague, Mr. Elliott, had in terms of the study that is currently being done in the municipalities will be of great help in determining if that's the way we do want

to go and what it will entail to find sufficient funds to meet the needs of recreation in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$1.5 million, you're trying to tell me that it's an increase from what you have been giving. So maybe the minister can tell me how much was spent on mobile equipment per year for the last 10 years, let's say, and if there has been an increase. This year, apparently it's \$1.5 million. If you could clarify how much it has been in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you for that question. I think the ballpark figure would be roughly nine hundred thousand dollars annually that has been used towards that in previous years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: I guess what the minister... sorry, Mr. Chairman. I guess what the minister is trying to tell me is that there has only been \$900,000 a year for the last five or six years spent on any mobile equipment. I find that figure awfully low for 24 communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. We're dealing with O&M estimates and I hear you're revolving around capital. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree, it is low and it was low. Unfortunately, that is the math and what we're doing now. Although it is not as high as we would like it to, it is definitely a positive start and it is significantly higher than previous practice, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Schell

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I was trying to get at is not the actual money for the capital but why they were planning on going to block funding. I don't have any prepared questions now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Kusugak, did you want to respond?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's one of the things we're looking at, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully, we will get more details as we explore it further, but it's definitely trying to look at more consistent funding to deal with some of the recreational requirements of municipalities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On J-5, Grants and Contributions, \$51,201,000, I assume that this is O&M for the entire capital infrastructure that you have. It's not really explained as to what exactly that amount is being used for.

My question is: when you build for a community, for example, a recreation

complex, how do you determine how much O&M is going to be incurred by this municipality or do you have a pattern from previous years that you use uniformly throughout Nunavut communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$51 million that he highlighted, Mr. Chairman, to answer that, that's the contributions we give to the municipalities so the municipalities can operate, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that, but I'm just assuming that you have a formula where the Municipality of Pond Inlet, for example, will receive \$1.6 million for general operating for water and sewage, etcetera, and the other part is for new initiatives like a new community hall. Is it not a calculation within that \$51 million? How do you determine what the cost is going to be with the new infrastructure project that is created in the community? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. His prior question alluded to that. He is correct, there is a formula that is followed in determining what it will cost that will be included in the O&M of the infrastructure that was put into the

community. There's a formula for figuring that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So NAM knows that a uniform or similar arrangement is made available depending on the infrastructure that is being built in the community and that NAM determines if this is fair to all communities, depending on the design and scope of the project that is being invested there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department determines the cost of operating the infrastructure that has been put into the community and then it is worked into the contribution agreement to the municipality, and they are made aware of that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: My last question, Mr. Chairman, is: do you have to calculate on an annual basis as to what O&M is going to be for all of your municipal programs? You already know what's inside of the O&M, which we will be dealing with later on. The fuel prices and power costs fluctuate, and then sometimes there will be some over budget if normal practice is being done.

Do you have to calculate that every year to determine your O&M? What would

happen if some communities are over budget due to unforeseen increased costs of the O&M? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work very well with the municipalities. The budgets for O&M for the municipalities in our agreements and contributions don't change from year to year, unless there is new infrastructure or different circumstances that arise in the municipality.

If there are no changes in operating a municipality, then the O&M doesn't change significantly, but if there is new infrastructure and such, then there would be changes to the O&M, Mr. Chairman. I hope that answers his question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My line of questioning is going to go back to what Mr. Schell was talking about with the \$1.5 million for mobile equipment. Although, Mr. Chairman, you referred to that as capital, it is now under Community Support under Grants and Contributions, so I think it's fair to ask these kinds of questions.

Mr. Chairman, it has been made obvious from complaints from our communities, even questions brought up in the House, that the \$1.5 million for mobile equipment is not sufficient for communities. Is the amount of \$1.5 million in this budget the amount that the minister requested to have put in

there or was there a different number?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We currently are funding it at \$1.5 million. It is over sixty thousand dollars per municipality. Currently, the levels that would be ideal for running the program would be \$2.5 million in annual funding. We're currently trying to work on reaching that goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned earlier that there was \$900,000 per year when it used to be under the capital program issued in capital equipments for mobile equipment and I think it's fairly obvious even years ago that it wasn't sufficient.

Using my community as an example, we have a loader that is 20 years old. The main snow clearing equipment is 25 years old. We had a dozer that was 34 years before it was replaced. So it's obvious that there wasn't enough money in the funds even years ago, which is probably why we're getting so many complaints saying that \$1.5 million is not even enough.

It has been noted by people in the House and questions in the House that more money was needed in this department. Again this year, there is no increase in the \$1.5 million. At the same time, in my opening comments, there was a decrease in utility costs going to the communities

by almost three million dollars. Why didn't his department consider moving some of this decrease over to the Mobile Equipment Fund to increase the \$1.5 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Mr. Rumbolt. It's significantly different now from what was happening before. I concur with my colleague in terms of the lack of new heavy equipment or the old equipment in your community. I think that every member in this House can agree that the mobile equipment in communities is very old. The department is having a hard time keeping up with trying to get new equipment and this is what the idea behind the block funding is.

Right now, the municipalities can go to the industry and work out financing arrangements with the people who are in the business of supplying mobile equipment to the municipalities. Although this amount is low, I understand that there are municipalities that are working on getting into leases and purchases of mobile equipment.

As for the reduction of energy costs and utilities for the department, that was reduced because there was a decrease in the cost of those products. When there was a sharp increase a couple of years ago in the cost of fuel oil products, the department compensated the municipalities with that change. When the price went down, so did the funding for the utilities.

In fact, we didn't claw back all of the money. We left some of that money with the municipalities, Mr. Chairman, and we just couldn't switch it over to the Mobile Equipment Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his answer. Under this fund, the \$1.5 million, you said that communities get just over sixty thousand dollars each. I mentioned the age of the equipment in my community and the dozer, which was 35 years old, has been replaced under this program.

So there are no more funds for another five years in order to help replace the aged equipment that's in the community. Right now, the loader, I know it's twice a year that the engine gets rebuilt. The 814 snow removal equipment is annually getting the transmission rebuilt. And I don't know if this machinery can hang on for five more years.

I think the \$1.5 million might be sufficient if everybody's equipment was up to date and replacing it that way. But where there's so much equipment that is aged, I think that, at least for short-term purposes, there needs to be an increase in this budget.

Having said that, the money now for my community is tied up with this new dozer. It doesn't leave the community any room to buy other equipment, such as pickup trucks, that the foremen or other people need in the community. So I'm just trying to stress the fact that not only I feel that there's not enough

money in this fund, my community feels it and I'm getting the same thing from other communities.

So I guess it's more of a comment. I'm just stressing the fact that there's not enough money in this fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I commend the Municipality of Sanikiluaq. I believe that they're the first municipality to take advantage of the funding. The good thing about this funding is it's guaranteed, it's not a wish list issue, and it's definitely going to that community.

The bright side of this, if there is one, is in the coming years, as they purchase new equipment, if we don't change the current levels of funding, they eventually will have equipment that is up to date. It will take longer than the municipalities want, but I can only agree that more funding for block funding, like any other department, would be the ideal way to go.

Like you said, the ideal funding for it is higher than it currently is. I can't disagree with that comment and I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rumbolt and Mr. Arvaluk asked a couple of the questions that I was going to ask. I know the minister has received

letters from me in the past about the Grise Fiord bulldozer as well.

I don't know if I can add very much to what my colleagues have said other than the fact that it is a real concern that money is tied up for five years and that doesn't leave the extra funds. So I would like to urge his department to continue to increase that. As you know and as you mentioned, prices are going up.

I wanted to ask some questions sort of similar to what Mr. Arvaluk was asking in terms of the transfers that go to the hamlets. It went from \$54 million down to \$51 million. With talks of prices going up and whatnot, why did they decrease it by \$3 million? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question.

In fact, the reason for the decrease, as I mentioned earlier to a response, is we increased the municipal funding to alleviate the costs of increase in fuel and petroleum products in the communities. We had to increase our contributions to the municipalities so that they can afford the costs of petroleum products' increase in the municipality and the rates.

What we did, in fact, Mr. Chairman, is that we didn't take back 100 percent of the contribution we gave them when the rates increased. In fact, we only took back 75 percent of the monies that we initially gave them. Although it is significant, we did not take back the whole amount that we had given in the first place, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the minister is saying that... on J-5, in 2008-09, for the grants and contributions, there was \$52 million and then it went, in 2009-2010, up to \$54 million, and now in 2010-11, a couple of years later, it's gone back down to \$51 million. He is saying it rose because of the cost of fuel and now it's gone down lower than a couple of years ago because the rates of fuel are that much better. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, we gave them an additional \$4 million in order to help compensate for the cost of the increase of running the municipality. Now we take back approximately three million dollars of the \$4 million, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I've got that and I think I understand that, so thank you for that explanation. The second part of the question I was asking is if you look back in 2008-09, it was \$52 million and now it's actually a million less than what it was back in 2008-09. With inflation and everything like that, you would think that that increase would go up, not down. I was wondering why it has gone down. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: There are other things included in that. It wasn't just that, there were other factors in terms of reductions in the funding to municipalities, such as three community maintenance agreements that we had, which have since been returned to the government.

There are other factors in that, Mr. Chairman, not just the issue with the costs of petroleum products. We have municipal agreements for maintaining government infrastructure with the municipalities too. Three of those have since ceased. So there are those and other factors, Mr. Chairman, included in the reduction of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess what you are saying is that our hamlets will have to make do with less.

I want to go back to block funding again. You had mentioned your department had sort of accessed that you would like to have \$2.5 million in the block funding for the hamlets, which would be nice, a million dollars more than the \$1.5 million that they're allocating now. Why was that decision made? Was it your department's decision to keep it at \$1.5 instead of going to the \$2.5, or was it Cabinet's or the FMB's decision? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, I really hope

we're not having the municipalities be able to do with less, as your comment was. The funding that we took back was not everything that we had initially given them, so I don't know if that's a fair comment to make.

In terms of the funding for mobile equipment, our department felt and still feels that \$2.5 million is an ideal figure in order to be able to give municipalities enough funding to deal with their mobile equipment funding. It would work out to approximately one hundred thousand dollars per municipality, give or take. Our department still feels that way.

I will continue to work with my colleagues at the Financial Management Board to work on dealing with the many issues that require funding from this government. It's just the way it is. It's difficult to make decisions on where we can get that funding, which is priority one. I'm glad we were able to get \$1.5 and we will continue to work to see how we can improve the funds for this department for block funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that the members on the Financial Management Board come to agree with you too. If I'm listening to you correctly, they're the ones who said that \$1.5 million was sufficient.

I want to go back to my comments about the hamlet doing with less. I need the minister to explain to me again because obviously I do not understand and I'm missing something. I guess if our airlines worked this way, it would be great too.

In 2008-09, the amount of money that was going to the hamlets was \$52 million and then in 2010-11, we're saying, "Here is \$51 million." To me, in my teaching of math, that is less and that was what my comment meant by being less.

If I'm wrong, please explain to me how I do not understand it. To me, \$52 million is higher than \$51 million, but I don't claim to understand all of the intricacies of CGS because it's a very complicated department. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, my colleagues know exactly how much the municipalities need for block funding. It just becomes a very tough issue to try to find the limited resources we have to fund all of the programs that are needed throughout the government. The block funding for municipal mobile equipment is one of the many priorities the government has and with a limited pot of money, we have to make some tough decisions.

I commend my colleagues for agreeing to fund the block funding to the levels it is at and I will continue to work with them to try to find funds to increase that amount. I think in terms of his math, it's really quite simple. I know the same math he does. Again, we took less money than we gave them back in terms of funding for the cost of utilities in the municipalities.

My colleague also should include that we have community maintenance agreements where the municipalities

operate our maintenance of government infrastructure in communities. Over the last year, three of those agreements are no longer there and it's in the ballpark of one million dollars for that, so it should be pretty close to the noted amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask some specific questions or detailed questions in regard to what Mr. Arvaluk was asking. Again, I want to really understand how this works. Your department kind of takes in other departments and does work for other departments, so sometimes I find it a little confusing. Just so I understand in my mind what you were saying to Mr. Arvaluk in terms of increased transfers to the hamlets... .

Arctic Bay had the opening of its new community hall and the minister had the occasion to come up with some federal representatives to do the grand opening in the fall of last year. For that community hall, there's the increased fuel and electricity which the hamlet will be taking and incurring the costs for those. Does that mean the Hamlet of Arctic Bay had an increase or a proportional increase because that building was given to them in terms of their hamlet transfer? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. For that kind of detailed question, if I could have my deputy answer that question, Mr. Chairman, it might be easier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's actually a very good question.

Annually, as capital projects get approved and cost calculations are made, we actually use a formula to determine and forecast what the costs of operating and maintaining those buildings are. So that is a combination of utilities and maintenance over time, and then we forecast the need when that building will come online, when it will be opened, that those dollars are actually identified within the operation and maintenance main budgets, which we're looking at now. That's usually the rate of changes to the budget.

One of the reasons why only 75 percent of the utility increase was taken back was in recognition that you are, in various communities, going to have additional infrastructure that is coming on stream and that 25 percent of previous funding was left there to take into account those added responsibilities for communities.

It's rather complex and there are, as was mentioned earlier, plusses and minuses and changing in pricing as time goes on. So we certainly look to include a forecast for operations and maintenance in all of the new infrastructure that will be opening in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I said that we

talk a lot about lifelong learning, so every time I ask a question, I seem to learn a little bit more.

I don't want to miss my opportunity to ask questions and these questions might seem like they are directed or should be directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation when we are talking to him and when he comes before COW. But again, because of the way CGS operates and because you guys have your hand in everything, I just wanted to make sure I didn't miss my opportunity. So if I do ask a question in the wrong place, I would hope that the minister would tell me.

The Arctic Bay Airport, right now, someone is paying for the fuel and someone is paying for the electricity. Is that your department that is paying for that or is it ED&T that is paying for it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that you learn a little about something every time you ask a question. You must have learned a lot by now.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, it must be Friday. I am sorry to say, but in terms of that airport, we don't have our hands in that cookie jar. Economic Development and Transportation would have that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask that question. With the dinner that we had today of Chinese food, my fortune cookie actually said, "A good teacher is also a good student." I have always taught that way and always feel like that way. You are always teaching and you are always learning,

I guess my next question then would be again in regard to the Arctic Bay Airport since it is up in the air and whatnot. One of the rumours that is going around and one of the concerns I have is that there has been no negotiations with the Hamlet of Arctic Bay to take over the operation of the airport. I'm assuming that if the airport is run by the hamlet, the hamlet will receive an increase in terms of positions, jobs, also fuel, the lights, and electricity for running that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I had taken that fortune cookie instead.

I thank you for the question, but again, Mr. Chairman, that question in terms of airport maintenance and operation is to do with ED&T, Mr. Chairman, and I wouldn't be able nor in a position to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask that question. Like I said, I don't want to ask the Minister of ED&T and have him tell me that I need to ask community

government about it. Thank you. I have no more questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I have Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard my colleagues stating today that we are doing our operation in our hamlet with less money. The trick of the trade that I learned over the years is to ensure that every equipment that you have in buildings are in an inventory so that you can get additional money for those things. If they are not recorded, they are not given any operational money.

Anyway, having said that, I am wondering: how often is the municipality funded? Is it on a quarterly basis? When you are operating with less money, what you want to do is you want to be able to have this financial management and the opportunity to invest in short-term investments by putting the term deposit in a bank, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

How often are they funded? Is it on a quarterly basis or is it monthly as you receive the financial statements from the hamlet and then you give them the new money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. The funding is dependent on municipalities, Mr. Chairman. Some municipalities will receive quarterly funding and some municipalities will receive monthly funding, Mr. Chairman.

It depends on the municipality and circumstances. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. The term the hon. minister uses, “circumstance,” does it mean that if a hamlet or a specific community has the ability to operate this funding and is making financial statements on time to the community government, then that municipality is given the benefit of quarterly funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you are correct, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. My community - I have two communities, I will not name the specific community - is having some serious financial matters. So I hope the minister is aware and is doing everything in his ability or power to ensure that we get people from the regional office going to the community if there is an extra capability, or ability, or discipline needed in that community, that that person can be seconded from either regional or territorial government. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my hon. colleague for raising that question or comment. I

agree. Our department and our staff are working and doing the best they can to alleviate the situation that my colleague is talking about.

I would actually like to take this opportunity to thank the hard-working staff in my department that work tirelessly to ensure that the best of care is given to the municipalities. When they require assistance from my department, they do their utmost to make sure that care is given.

In this case, in taking care of the financial difficulties of the community, we give it the best we have and we make sure that we use all of the resources we have available to us to ensure that the issues are dealt with in that municipality. I commend my staff for doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. For the record, I don't have any other questions besides the question I have already stated. But for the record, Mr. Chairman, I want to commend and acknowledge the administrative staff that we have in both of my communities. This is for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear any questions and I'm sure the minister appreciates that comment.

I have no more names. J-5. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$58,331,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to J-6. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$67,210,000. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the Government Services part of this budget includes managing high schools. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services actually manages the construction of all government infrastructure and that includes schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been apprised of the fact that our high school has been closed due to hazardous substances and in this case, it's related to asbestos. Due to the safety concerns related to this substance, I would like more information on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. This is not really related to his question, but I would like to respond. Currently, there are no school closures related to safety concerns, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member is referring to the situation that transpired today and perhaps I can speak to some of the details, with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

The maintenance work related to the renovation of the washroom uncovered some asbestos remnants and as a precaution, all students were sent home. No one was placed in a dangerous situation. I have it on good authority that this problem will be resolved over the weekend, prior to the school resuming on Monday. That is based on the briefing I have had with respect to this matter.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to respond.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the minister. With respect to this matter, I don't intend to let go of any safety issues related to facilities as I wish to represent my constituents' concerns. I don't want to just dish out more dirt, but I would like to know what type of standards or hazardous material protocol they may be following.

The issue with mould seems to keep resurfacing from time to time. I would like to know what type of preventative measures are followed in order to diminish these safety issues. I would like to know if this building will remain in use or when they would be able to move

out of the Trigram building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that Mr. Okalik keeps bringing this issue up. I am hoping that the other Members of the Legislative Assembly would refer to those types of buildings also because safety is a priority of our department and we want our employees to work in safe environments.

The Trigram building is one of our concerns. At that time, when we found mould in it, it was cleaned. There is an ongoing monitoring of the building to make sure that there is no recurrence. I can just make that comment at this point. We want to reassure the employees at the Trigram building that they are in a safe building, which is where his constituency office is located, and that it's habitable.

If it becomes a safety issue, then we would deal with it, not only for that building but also for other Nunavut government buildings or buildings that are leased by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not the only case. There are recurrences of mould found in buildings. When are we going to stop the occurrence of mould? Are we going to be waiting for another mould situation to happen before we do anything

permanent about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Okalik for asking those questions. When you're talking about hypothetical issues, it's quite hard to decide what you're going to be doing. We look at the situation, we look at the safety concern, and they're usually covered by the contract that we have the landlord.

I can tell the member that if there is a recurrence, we would review the incident to see if it is a minor or major incident, but it's quite hard when we're talking about a hypothetical situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Yes, I don't want to keep revisiting this issue, but we unintentionally keep returning to the same issue. It seems that with respect to this mould issue, we keep going full circle and I would prefer not to do that. We ought to be able to move forward and the easiest solution is to look for a new office building that is not subject to ongoing issues.

Currently, we are housed in an unacceptable facility and I wonder if they could commit to looking for a different facility so that we don't fall into the same trap as before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank the member for that question. Yes, I agree with the member that we ought not to be resolving the same problem time and time again. As I stated earlier, if the mould doesn't reoccur, what options do we have then? To date, based on the findings of that air quality study, the air in the building is safe and is not a safety concern. Based on that assessment, there are no hazardous materials.

With the work orders unending, we cannot spend our precious resources searching for replacement offices when the situation may not reoccur. To my perception, the search for a replacement facility would be a waste of time if the issue has been resolved. I will reiterate to the member though that should this matter resurface, there would need to be a comprehensive review conducted on the safety issues.

The Trigram building is under a lease agreement to the end of 2013. Although I am aware of the hazardous substance release clause, I imagine that there are other provisions related to the safety measures that would kick in, as well as work safety legislation that would apply in this case. However, as we speak at this moment, the air quality study indicated that there are no hazardous substances in the air circulation of the building. In light of this finding, we cannot just leave that building. Once we have reached that bridge, we will cross it should the situation resurface in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Like mould, once it occurs, it keeps coming back. I want the department to be ready for a move should that have to be. I've had to approach the minister on more than one occasion to deal with this situation. It seems pretty obvious that we will have to move and find another office to lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I am not a mould expert and I'm sure you are not either, but from what I know, once mould dries up and once it's cleaned properly, it doesn't return.

Mould only starts growing in moisture or in damp areas. If it is cleaned properly and if there is no dampness in that area, then it will not grow. We will keep monitoring it. Should it recur, we will deal with it and I'm going to make sure that the member is kept up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department's draft 2010-13 business plan, you indicated that a draft report has been developed concerning the open market feasibility study which develops sealift resupply policy options for the government's consideration. Once they're finalized, "the department will present options contained in the report and seek direction concerning the subsequent sealift resupply contract."

My question is: when do you expect the report to be finalized and will you table it in the House once it is completed?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. Definitely, once it's gone through the summarization of it, the translation of it, and all of the things necessary to table it for my colleagues, I will definitely get that done, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut's 2008-09 annual report on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 1 and 7 of 2009. I was just wondering when the minister will be tabling the 2009-2010 annual report. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that. We are hoping to have that available in the fall sitting, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These reports have not included information on the procurement,

contracting and leasing activities of Crown corporations and agencies.

The Legislative Assembly tables a separate annual report on its activities. Will you commit to working with your Cabinet colleagues to ensure that the GN's Crown corporations and agencies table similar annual reports on their activities or provide the information to your department for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is doing quite a bit of work with those that we are responsible for making available. I would suggest or recommend to my colleague that he talk to the ministers responsible for those departments that he's seeking documentation from because they're outside our responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation) Are you finished? (interpretation ends) J-6. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$67,210,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: As per Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and will report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, Minister and your staff. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our 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 22 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, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts at half past two this afternoon in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 15:

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 22
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 15, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 14:01

