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**Monday, March 15, 2010**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, March 15, 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): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to say the opening prayer. Mr. Elliott.

>>Prayer

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) A very good afternoon, Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly. All Nunavummiut, have a very good afternoon. Going to our Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tootoo.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 118 – 3(2):**  
**Update on Condition Rating**  
**Inspections of NHC Assets**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a lovely day here in our beautiful capital.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that the Nunavut-wide condition rating inspections on Nunavut

Housing Corporation assets have been completed.

In response to recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has undertaken detailed inspections of all public housing and owned staff housing units throughout Nunavut, Mr. Speaker.

A condition rating system database has been established and was updated continuously as new inspection reports were completed. A full Nunavut-wide report will be compiled now that all of the units have been inspected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 119 – 3(2):**  
**Iqaluit International Airport**  
**Master Plan**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Good afternoon to my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update members on the status of the master plan for the Iqaluit International Airport. As I announced on December 7, the Government of Nunavut has commissioned a new master plan for the Iqaluit International Airport to replace the existing plan which was completed in 1999.

Members are acutely aware that the Iqaluit International Airport has experienced high rates of growth since 1999 and the future outlook is for this high growth to continue. The airport processed 115,000 passengers and 21,000 aircraft movements in 2009. I

mentioned in December that if the current growth continues as expected, by the year 2020, passenger volumes will have increased by another 90 percent to 220,000 and aircraft movement by another 57 percent to 33,000.

Iqaluit International Airport is coming under increasing pressure from the growing number of flights, aircraft movement, and air carrier, escalating security requirements, increasing frequent federal inspection, the introduction and growth of international traffic, and accelerating national interest in arctic sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, as mining and mineral exploration and tourism recover from the global recession, increased activities in these sectors will put more stress on airport operations.

Departmental officials and representatives of the consultant provided a detailed briefing to my Cabinet colleagues on December 3, 2009. A briefing was provided to the city's chief administration officer and senior director, planning and lands the next day on December 4. The Mayor of Iqaluit was briefed on the master plan on December 18.

A presentation was given to city council at a special meeting on transportation issues held at City Hall on January 13. The city administration provided comments to council on February 16 and these comments were subsequently forward to my department officials the following week. Invaluable input has been received as a result of these consultations and this information is now being incorporated into the draft document by the consultant.

The 2010 Iqaluit International Airport Master Plan will address all present challenges. It considers the latest changes in airport and airline operating practices, regulatory and security requirements, and key safety improvements, the needs of modern airline fleets, revenue generation opportunities, and other emerging needs. I look forward to tabling the 2010 master plan for the Iqaluit International Airport in the House by the end of this month. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 120 – 3(2): In Recognition of the Late Rosemary Brown**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the significant contributions of Rosemary Brown, who sadly passed away at her home in Rankin Inlet this past December.

After arriving in the North from Churchill, Manitoba, more than three decades ago, Rosemary started working for the Government of the Northwest Territories as a Senior Nursing Officer. It wasn't long before she became a regional nursing officer, then chief nursing officer, and often served as acting CEO of the former Keewatin Regional Health Board. Most recently, Rosemary served as the department's capital planner for such projects as nursing facilities and has left us with many legacies throughout the territory.



Mr. Speaker, Rosemary coordinated the design and construction of several key health infrastructure projects: the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre, health centres in Arviat and Chesterfield Inlet, the Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay regional health facilities, the state-of-the-art Naja Isabelle residence in Chesterfield Inlet, the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, and most recently, the two continuing care centres in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. Rosemary's attention to detail is evident in every building that she worked on and her experience as a nurse was paramount to designing efficient, effective spaces in which to provide high quality health care.

Mr. Speaker, one of the more significant contributions Rosemary made was the inclusion of a 'quiet room' in health centres. These rooms are a place where patients' families, friends, and loved ones can go when they are in need of privacy or a quiet place to be during stressful times. In recognition of this wonderful legacy, we will be naming the quiet room in the Kivalliq Regional Health Centre in Rosemary Brown's memory for her extraordinary contribution to health care in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaking, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of the late Rosemary Brown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 176 – 3(2): Kimmirut Heals and Remembers**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honour the memory of RCMP Constable Douglas Scott, who was killed in November 2007 in the line of duty.

Last week, 11 jurors, 7 of whom are my constituents from Kimmirut, began their deliberations. On Thursday, the jurors completed what was obviously a very difficult trial. This is a time of healing for everyone involved. At the end of the trial, Justice Kilpatrick acknowledged that in this case, there were many victims.

I would also like to give full support to my constituents in Kimmirut as they start their healing journey. I understand that there will be counselling made available for the jurors. I would like to give them my full support as they emerge from the ordeal that they went through last week.

I realize that this has been a trying time for the entire community of Kimmirut and that the loss of a young promising RCMP constable will never be forgotten. A few years ago, my home community of Cape Dorset experienced a similar tragic loss, so I have an idea of what people must be feeling right now in Kimmirut.

I applaud Justice Kilpatrick's suggestion for the community of Kimmirut to construct a memorial in Constable Scott's honour. I do understand that no sentence or memorial will ever bring back the life of Douglas Scott. I

understand that no amount of sympathy or healing can undo what was done.

To the family and loved ones of Douglas Scott, I send my deepest condolences and best wishes going forward.

At this time, I want to express my support for the entire community and all those who were victimized by this tragic loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 177 – 3(2):  
Pangaggujjiniq 2010**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly. All of Nunavut can now watch the proceedings of the House on TV on a daily, barring technical difficulties. For example, the people of Igloolik can see us on TV, but they can't hear us. I'm sure this will be fixed soon.

The reason why I stand up today, Mr. Speaker, is that on April 12, there will be a dog team race to Clyde River from Pond Inlet, all slated to arrive on April 19. There will be participants from Igloolik. If they could only hear me, I wish them the very best and hope they win the race.

Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Clyde River residents are all participating in this race. I'm sure that it will be a joyful event. I send my support to all participants, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 178 – 3(2): Sport  
and Recreation: Ensuring Equal  
Opportunity**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to applaud the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for its tremendous performance in support of our athletes at the 2010 Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, our athletes made us proud. They brought home 47 ulus.

>>Applause

It is no small feat to transport, accommodate, and feed over 200 athletes from across Nunavut. The sport and recreation branch of the Minister's department did an excellent job in performing this task and they should be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I asked questions last week about the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for all athletes to travel to such events as the Arctic Winter Games.

I am pleased to note that a change has been made from 10 percent of the most economical return fare covered to 5 percent of the most economical return fare covered. I am further encouraged that his department is reviewing the Nunavut Soccer Association's pilot project where all costs are shared fairly among the participants. I eagerly await the final report on the outcome of this pilot project.

The physical and mental health of young people is extremely important. This is especially true in Nunavut, where youth make up a large percentage of the population. Participation in sports is a major contributing factor to the physical and mental health of young Nunavummiut.

I had the pleasure of speaking with a number of the athletes from my constituency who brought home seven ulus in the Dene games. Those athletes were proud of their accomplishments and had many stories to tell.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in giving a show of appreciation for all of our athletes, their parents, coaches, mission staff, and those who made the Arctic Winter Games a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by quoting a portion of *Tamapta* that seems appropriate. “We believe in Nunavut. We have hope for its vibrant future, built by our people pursuing their dreams.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members’ Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member’s Statement 179 – 3(2):  
Congratulations to Pangnirtung  
Weavers for Accomplishments**

**Mr. Komoartok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate five of my constituents in Pangnirtung for their accomplishments at the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio. These five women made the tapestry that now

hangs in the Richmond Oval, where they did the skating oval over the Olympic period.

The tapestry titled “Achieving a Dream” was woven for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. This ten-foot wide by six-foot high tapestry was commissioned by Inuit Tapiriit of Canada and the Vancouver Organizing Olympic Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The tapestry displays images by an artist from each of the four Inuit regions represented by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami: Dinah Anderson of Nunatsiavut, Sammy J. Kudluk of Nunavik, Mabel Nigiyoq of the Inuvialuit settlement region, and Andrew Qappik of Nunavut, of Pangnirtung. The five women who made the tapestry are Kawtysee Kakee, Olassie Akulukjuk, Anna Etuangat, Leesee Kakee, and Kathy Battye.

I would like to bring attention to a tapestry that was completed in February 2009 by Kawtysee Kakee, Anna Etuangat, Igah Etuangat, and Geela Keenainak. This tapestry titled “Combs of Our Ancestors” portrays three combs from the Thule people. It has been in three different exhibitions in southern Canada. It will be on display at the Canadian High Commission in London this summer and it will be exhibited at other Canadian Embassies in Europe.

In the past 40 years, more than 600 designs have been developed in the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio. In 1990, the studio began accepting commission work. Today, it is only one of four tapestry studios in the world which employ tapestry weavers to interpret the work of contemporary artists.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the accomplishments of all the weavers at the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 180 – 3(2):  
Nanulik Athletes Bring Home the  
Medals**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a number of Nanulik residents who finished up the Arctic Winter Games by winning even more medals. Of the 49 ulu medals won by Team Nunavut, the Nanulik athletes worked very hard to win 12 of them. I am proud of the way they represented Nunavut at the 2010 Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, Saul Netser and Eli Paliak of Coral Harbour both won another silver medal each, this time in the Inuit Wrestling event in their respective weight classes.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Tootoo Tanuyak from Chesterfield Inlet won the bronze medal in the Arctic Sports One Foot High Kick Open Male event.

Mr. Speaker, William Jr. Nakoolak, Samson Ell, and Kyle MacLean from Coral Harbour each won a bronze medal in their respective weight classes of the Inuit Wrestling event.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how proud I am of our Nanulik athletes. At

the same time, I am very grateful that they have had the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these athletes on their achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 181 – 3(2):  
Congratulations to Marriage in  
Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Martha Lee and Nick Tattuinee, who were married on Saturday. I congratulate them and wish them the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 277 – 3(2): By-Elections for  
DEAs**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. It's in regard to the question I asked him on Friday when I indicated

that all of the members of DEAs have to be re-elected and he suggested to me that there were issues in Cape Dorset and they were going to hold a by-election.

But my understanding is that in all communities, it wasn't done properly and that not all of the members were voted or elected in all of the communities. So my question to the minister is: is he going to hold by-elections in all of the communities in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I told the member at that time that I would take this question as notice and my response still stands, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Schell, your question has been taken as notice and the minister will get back to you eventually.

Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Question 278 – 3(2): Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I am confident that many of us in this House have constituents who are contributing and active members of our communities but who also have the additional challenge of living with a disability.

My question to the minister is: can he clarify what steps his department takes to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the resources and equipment that they need to be able to participate fully in society and enjoy the same quality of life that many others take for granted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for posing that question. As I recall, the same question was asked last year about whether these individuals are given the assistance they need and I provided that information at that time.

On the question for those requiring assistance, I will have to look into the issue. If the information is not going out there, we have to make sure that it happens. If the member has further questions on the need for resources in his community, I definitely want to seek the member's assistance. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do that, I will write the minister a letter some time today.

My supplementary question is: a number of Nunavummiut are confined to using a wheelchair to get around their home and community. Can the minister update this House on what measures are in place to ensure that Nunavummiut who need

them are provided with wheelchairs that are adequate for mobility throughout their community? If I could clarify that as a supplementary. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk.  
Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the issue. I know that there are already individuals in my community who have disabilities who have been using remote and battery-operated wheelchairs, which has made a great improvement in their mobility.

Mr. Speaker, I will look into the issue further and make some updated statements at a later date. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that every year, the Department of Health and Social Services contributes \$20,000 to the Rick Hansen Foundation. We already know that one of Rick Hansen Foundation's goals is to focus attention on accessibility. Will the department work to increase access, particularly for those confined to wheelchair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing that question and I know exactly where he is coming from. We have been contributing \$20,000 annually to the Rick Hansen

Foundation for a number of years now. That's for the betterment for people with disabilities to be inclusive and have access.

We also have a disability council here in Nunavut and we contribute \$90,000 to that entity to make sure that they are vocal on behalf of the people with disabilities. It has made a great benefit to the people of Nunavut. They can also access outside funds to supplement the \$90,000 that the government gives. Again, they are not government-operated, so what they want to use those funds for is at their discretion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is that I understand that the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program does not often cover the purchase of wheelchairs other than the basic manual chairs that usually have to be pushed by another individual.

Can the minister describe what other programs are in place to enable people who are confined to using a wheelchair for their daily mobility to acquire an electric wheelchair or scooter that can travel across gravel, hilly roads, and hard-packed snow? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier statement, I will be looking into

the programs that provide these kinds of services.

There are several programs that offer more than one service type. The member spoke to the first one where the federal government provides funding with the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. If it's not included in this program, then my department also offers a bit of assistance for that type of service.

I will have to do some research into the matter to see if there is funding available and I will ensure that I inform the members prior to the end of this session, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

### **Question 279 – 3(2): Vehicles and Disabilities**

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

On June 11, 2009, I asked questions regarding the use of vehicles to transport people with disabilities within our communities. Mr. Speaker, my intent was to encourage the government to consider providing transportation services to this minority group of individuals and enable them to participate fully in the richness of our communities.

At that time, the minister gave one reason why vehicles are not available in the communities for this purpose. He stated, "The reason is that there are liability issues and there would have to be a licensed operator to handle all of

that. So in view of that, we are very cautious to get into that kind of stuff until we have clarified all of our policies and procedures that we are currently reviewing at the moment."

Mr. Speaker, it has been nine months since the minister's reply to my question. I would ask that the minister update the House on what progress has been achieved on his department's review of the policies and procedures relating to this issue. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that question, but I can't recall whether this policy is being reviewed or not and I do not recall making a statement about that issue.

However, with respect to the issue of people with disabilities, our department is always checking to see if anything new has surfaced. It is not only people with disabilities who inquire about transportation assistance in the communities. As an example, here in Nunavut, our department has been approached to assist with ambulances, but we don't have specific capital funding for purchasing these types of capital items.

This is where we lobby the federal government to provide more assistance, to discuss whether this type of request could be funded through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and if the federal government could agree to that type of change. We have a team that negotiates with the federal government

with respect to the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, but they were unable to come to an agreement on this and other issues regarding the program due to the stonewalling of the federal government.

Nunavut is not the only jurisdiction that is constantly in negotiations with the federal government. We have to work in partnership with other aboriginal groups, including NTI, Mr. Speaker, in order to deal with this matter. NTI represents Inuit, they are our partners, and they are co-signers in these agreements. This matter is still under negotiation. If the federal government was willing to provide further assistance, then we would be able to make some progress in these areas.

However, at this time, I cannot ascertain with any degree of confidence if this policy is being reviewed and I don't recall making that type of statement about it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quote that I read was actually from the *Hansard* from June 11, 2009, so that's exactly what the minister did say.

Mr. Speaker, we have all of these community buildings with services being offered to all residents of the community. When new GN buildings are constructed, the regulations require them to be wheel chair accessible and yet, our constituents with disabilities do not have the opportunity to access the services because they have no means of getting there. A task as simple as going to the store to do the shopping becomes a

major chore. When will the government commit to providing adequate assistance to these individuals? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for a fact that with respect to that legislation, it's not only the government that has to adhere to such standards as building codes. If it's under the public access policies, the building is required to have wheelchair ramps and other disabled persons' means of access into the public building.

If we are informed as to which building is involved, let's say if the Northern Store lacks access, then we are required to inform them. Once I'm told that this building is non-compliant, we have to be informed as to which building is at default. I'm sure most stores are in compliance. Once I have been made privy to information that a building is non-compliant and doesn't offer wheelchair access, we have to conduct an investigation to determine which building that is, in what community, and where it's not following the legislation, which happens to be Canada-wide. Thank you.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 11, 2009, in response to my questions, the minister stated and again, just for clarification and so there's no misunderstanding, this is a direct quote from the June 11 [*Blues*]. "I am sure that there are individuals who would like to



provide support to the people with disabilities.” The minister is correct.

As an example, we saw this Christmas in my community, concerned community constituents trucked people with disabilities to and from the community games in the back of their pickup trucks. Mr. Speaker, it was great having these people participate in the games, but it was sad seeing how they had to be herded into the back of a pickup truck at minus 40 to be taken back and forth.

Would the minister agree that our residents with disabilities deserve a safer and more comfortable means of local transportation to be able to participate in local community life? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member who is inquiring about this matter, but I didn’t hear of the circumstances where the member stated that certain individuals are undergoing difficulties in trying to participate in festivities.

I know that in our community, we experience the same challenges as we don’t have a vehicle with a ramp for disabled people. Many people have to shuttle by vehicle, especially when it’s extremely cold during deep winter, and some people are put in the back of trucks. If that person wants to attend the community event, their dilemma is whether to be carried to the event on the back of a truck or if they prefer, they would have to try to get there by themselves.

However, I don’t quite understand my colleague’s concern about whether or not that individual was placed in a dangerous situation when they were being let on for a ride to the event. Perhaps they may have undergone a difficulty, but I can’t ascertain whether it was indeed an unsafe incident just based on his comments. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, it’s nice that the minister is asking me questions. But yes, I would consider it unsafe that these people are being put in that situation. They have to ride in the back of the truck and that’s why I’m asking the government whether they would actually commit to providing a vehicle for these residents so that they don’t have to be treated that way.

That was the line of questioning that I was asking, but the question I would like answered this time, Mr. Speaker, is that I have noted that the Department of Education is undertaking a comprehensive of special needs requirements as it relates to the delivery of educational services across Nunavut’s communities.

Can the minister clarify whether the Department of Health and Social Services has ever conducted a similar assessment of facilities and services for people with disabilities in Nunavut’s communities, and if not, would he consider instructing his officials to undertake such an assessment, yes or no? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to hear from the Disabilities Council because we provide them \$90,000 annually, but I don't know if it's their priority or not.

We provide services and programs for accessing. It's quite challenging to deal with making buildings accessible to disabled people because it's quite different from the south and our roads are quite different as well, but we will do whatever we can to provide support.

I'm not too sure how many people with disabilities require assistance, but we will have a better idea some time in the future, not right away. We will deal with the concerns and difficulties, but I can't tell you if we're going to be doing this work all across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 280 – 3(2): Assessment of Programs for People with Disabilities**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley. I don't actually feel I got an answer from my last question, so I am glad that there weren't many questions on this side so I could continue with my line of questioning.

What I had said was the Department of Education is looking into our students in the school who have disabilities, how they get back and forth, how they are handled, how they're trained, and how

they receive education within the school. There's an actual assessment going on by the Department of Education. I hope that makes that clear.

What I was asking is: is the Department of Health and Social Services doing a similar study for the people in our communities who have disabilities? Are they doing an assessment of that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know whether that was a supplementary question or not, so that's why I was a little confused because it appears to be a repeat of the same question, whether I am clarifying the question or not.

What I said was that at this moment, we're not doing a Nunavut-wide territorial review. I am sorry I have to interpret for myself. I did say in Inuktitut very clearly, in my language, that we are not conducting a Nunavut-wide assessment. I am sure the report from Education will be helpful to us as well. Why do two things when one is probably doing... which could be beneficial to not only to the Department of Education but to all of the departments as well?

What we are doing is case-by-case. We have a disability council specifically set up to provide advice, comments, and public concerns from the groups and if they indicate to us where many of the problems do exist, we will do so. We need to take case-by-case issues from communities at this time, but we're not

doing a territorial-wide review at this moment. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. That was not a supplementary question and this will be your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In providing services to people with disabilities, the minister has mentioned the disability council and has explained that they provide a key role in helping service people within Nunavut. I would just like to find out: how closely does his department work with this council? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I don't know to what degree, how closely, or a definition that would mean close or far, or whatnot, or a medium-range kind of thing, but I don't think that's an issue.

The disability council is separate, at arm's length, and not part of the government at all. It's an independent group. They seek advice from their members as well as provide reports to various groups and if they have issues with the government, they make it known to us.

How close? We do not have daily contact with them, but if they're willing to provide letters to us, they do so. If they wish to speak with us, they can do that. And I really don't speak for them, so he may have to ask that question directly to them to get further insight. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. I guess what the minister is actually saying is no, they don't work closely with the disability council. It's too bad because it sounds like the needs of our people with disabilities are falling through the cracks.

I would hope that the Government of Nunavut... they work at arm's length, yes, that's right, but it sounds like the minister's department hands them \$90,000 and says, "There you go." One of the things that *Tamapta* said was they want communication going both ways. So could the minister commit to maybe having his department speak more frequently with the disability council to understand the needs of people with disabilities?

It sounds like, from what he's saying, they pass off the money and they're in charge of getting everything done. To me, they need to work hand in hand and in partnership with the Government of Nunavut to make it work. So if the minister could commit to making more frequent contact with the disability council. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure whether I understand the member clearly or not. For him to insinuate that the department is not doing enough is a statement in its own that is his view, but to say that is a fact is really probably stretching it a bit.

What I'm trying to say is that arm's-length groups or independent groups do so at their own pace and if they wish to meet more regularly with us, they will make it known to us. So far, we have not seen any.

Sure, they have communicated to some members that they're not receiving enough funding. I don't think they're an isolated group. There are many other groups that say the same thing that they're not receiving... for instance, like community health groups in communities continue to indicate to us that they're not receiving enough funds.

But we will be ready, if they indicate that they want more communication, if they invite us to meetings, we will be there. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Do you have another question? (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To get back on track of what my line of questioning was because it wasn't actually about the specific dollar amount, I started off my line of questioning actually asking about the assessment of how many people we have with disabilities in our communities, what specific needs they have, and whether these people are being serviced properly.

That's how I started my line of questioning was having these people looked at and assessed and see what their specific needs are. I asked that question and the minister passed it off onto the disability council and said, "The disability council is responsible for that,

so we won't talk about that anymore. Go talk to them."

I'll go back to my original question because I still don't feel like I got an answer for it. Will the minister commit to going out and finding out what the specific needs are for our people in our communities with disabilities? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to need your help a bit here because I think these are two separate questions dealing with the same issue. Previously, he had a whole slate of questions, supplementary first, second, and third, and now, he is asking the same question through another question directly to me, so I don't want to be confusing the member.

I normally don't go into micromanage kinds of inquiries with my department. Sure, there are a lot of stuff that are going on, but if there were any problems with disabled individuals who are not treated, I think we have communities or groups that have obligations to report issues directly to us. So far, we have not received that many, but if there are, we're willing to address them.

I indicated earlier that at this moment, we're not planning a territorial-wide review because again that's going take bit of costs and we have not put in allocations of any studies to that effect, but we will continue to access case-by-case issues as they come in. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for

Akulliq, Mr. Ningark. Did you raise your hand? I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 281 – 3(2): Increase Housing Allowance**

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

The GN provides housing subsidies to GN employees living in GN subsidized housing. The average subsidy is about \$1,500 a month and is not taxed. That's \$18,000 a year tax-free in these employees' pockets.

On the other hand, the GN also provides a \$400/month housing allowance to employees who own their own homes. This allowance is supposed to provide an incentive to those employees living in GN housing to move into their own homes in order to lessen the government's requirements to provide housing for the GN employees and also to level the playing field between these employees living in subsidized housing and those in their housing.

The \$400/month is taxed, so it works out to about \$250 a month in the employees' pockets. That translates to \$3,000 a year versus \$18,000 a year. Will the minister commit to increasing the housing allowance to employees living in their own housing to match the subsidy provided to its employees in GN housing and to provide it in such a way as to make it tax-free for its own employees living in subsidized housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that very detailed calculation. I think he should come and for the Department of Finance and crunch some numbers for us.

But, Mr. Speaker, I can't commit to that request. Mr. Speaker, collective bargaining is opening soon and we would have to consider such a request like that in the overall context of the collective bargaining process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand that you can't do it overnight or anything, but could you at least commit to finding a way of giving the \$400 so it's tax-free in the same method as you give the \$500 for the fuel tax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, the \$400/month is not a universal benefit. It's only for the Government of Nunavut employees. As such, the Canada Revenue Agency requires it be taxed as a taxable benefit. So I'm like everybody else and that we follow the rules of the Government of Canada when it comes to taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister at least look at maybe upping the amount to the point where at least the employees are going to net to \$400? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, that program was a program that was introduced in Budget 2008. It was a very worthy program. It was introduced at time when house prices were skyrocketing and fuel costs were edging up.

Mr. Speaker, over 2009, we lowered fuel prices, we introduced a one-time \$400 homeowner fuel rebate, and we increased it to a one-time \$500 rebate to encourage Nunavummiut to apply for the \$500. I think the deadline is August 31 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this government has taken measures to help all homeowners in Nunavut and I hope that satisfies Mr. Schell. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the \$500 subsidy and the \$400 subsidy.

My question is: are you willing to look at increasing it in the future so it's a little bit closer to what the employees who are living in subsidized are getting? I realized the government's got limited funds, but if you could at least increase it to the point where the employee is going

to at least net \$400 out of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for asking some good questions. We know that the cost of living is very high in Nunavut. This government and the previous governments have lobbied the federal government very strenuously to help Nunavummiut. We passed a motion in the Second Assembly on the Northern Residents Deduction.

The cost of living is very high in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, but in this case, as I indicated in my earlier answer to Mr. Schell, something like this would have to be discussed in the context of the overall collective bargaining process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

### **Question 282 – 3(2): Renewal of Driver's Licences**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

On December 10, 2008, the government announced the introduction for a new driver's licence for Nunavummiut. At that time, the government announced that "the new documents are processed using a new system that will be supported and maintained in all 25 communities with driver and vehicle

licensing offices... they will be available in all communities by the end of March 2009.”

Can the minister indicate if the introduction of these new driver’s licences has been on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. In early 2009, the procedure was rolled out into the communities for every member. The government is committed to having all Nunavummiut able to travel freely within Canada using these new driver’s licences and general identification cards.

The process was actually started, yes, as the member stated, in December of 2008. I can’t really say how the process has been going, but one of the things that we put in there was the computer-generated automated system of generating these... the processing and the applications for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been hearing concerns from constituents that they have encountered delays in getting their licences renewed. In some cases, I have heard of delays up to six or eight months. Is the department aware of problems in processing renewals in different communities and if so, what is

it doing about this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for that question. The delay of six or eight months, to me, as minister responsible for that, is rather unacceptable. That’s a lot of time for some of these individuals who are trying to access and get their driver’s licence and general identification cards. These cards are required for travelling anywhere in Canada if you’re 12 years old and over. To travel in Canada, you need these identification cards for security purposes and these cards meet all of those requirements.

I will check with my staff to see what the delays are and if it’s in the procedures of delivering the program. If it’s just on an individual basis, where there are just a few individuals who are delayed for certain unknown reasons to me but are known to the department, we will check that out. If there are a lot of delays in a high number of individuals, I’ll have my staff check and possibly adjust their process and procedures in getting the program delivered out to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In the last Legislative Assembly, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation received \$800,000 in capital funding to implement the new driver’s licence

system. The new licences incorporated advanced security features that meet international standards, as indicated.

Can the minister indicate whether the new driver's licences are physically produced in each of our 25 communities or only in some communities, such as Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The documents are produced in Ottawa, the Bank Note [Company] of Canada. They're not produced up here. For the security features that are necessary, the Canada Bank Note [Company] is producing these cards for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have the privilege of having such a licence now and it took about two months for me to receive that one, a renewal.

Can the minister indicate approximately how many of the new driver's licences have been issued to Nunavummiut since they were introduced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We're still celebrating. We received an international award for the best design in security for the general identification card and the driver's

licence. Once the celebration stops, I'll get the numbers so I can make that available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Question 283 – 3(2): DFAIT News Release - Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

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

Mr. Speaker, on March 11, there was a press release from Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. It's quoted here as saying, "With the support of all provinces and territories, the Government of Canada has ratified the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities."

I know with the Government of Nunavut not wanting to offend and break laws, such as the World Trade Organization on different moratoriums and stuff, I was wondering if the minister could explain. It says further, "Provinces and territorial governments were consulted." Could the minister explain how his department was consulted on this? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it would help if the member could provide the same copy to



the House so that we can be aware of exactly what the document he alludes to. I don't have it with me. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's taken as notice, but if I ask any more questions, he will say he wants to see the document. So what I'll do is I'll try and get a clean copy because I have written all over mine, and I'll try and table it so that he can actually read it over. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. I didn't hear a question. The House will be waiting for you to table the document.

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

#### **Question 284 – 3(2): Two Percent Payroll Tax**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had some questions for the housing minister but he is not here, so I'm going to have to pick on the finance minister again. This is a question in regard to the question I had asked earlier about the 2 percent payroll tax.

When will the minister provide a proper credit to all residents who are currently paying the 2 percent payroll tax but are only receiving a \$1,200 credit back? In some cases, our residents are paying an extra \$1,500 a year but they are not receiving credit back. This tax is supposed to be a tax on southerners working here in our territory, not a tax on our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Schell for standing up for the workers of Nunavut. Mr. Schell, that tax was implemented many years ago on transient workers and I believe, Mr. Speaker, there is a rebate through the Canada Revenue Agency's tax process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a rebate on it for \$1,200, but in some cases, employees are paying as much as \$2,700. In other words, there is \$1,500 a year that they're not getting back. So my question is: when is he going to make it in such a way that all northern residents who file northern income tax forms will get their total 2 percent back? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, there are no immediate plans to do what Mr. Schell has requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain why he is not looking into it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very good question, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a tax that somebody implemented very many years ago through the Northwest Territories. It has been discussed numerous times since April 1, 1999. We have worked with the Canada Revenue Agency, Mr. Speaker, and over \$9 million is rebated to Nunavummiut through this tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister maybe thought of anybody who is filing in the North for income tax shouldn't be charged that 2 percent to start with and that would eliminate the issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a taxpayer as well. I remember when that tax came in many years ago when we were still part of the Northwest Territories and I wasn't particularly pleased with it. It was an interesting tax.

I can tell Mr. Schell that we can look into it. Again, it's something that does provide revenues to the government. Those revenues are used for programs that we fund as a government, including programs in all members' constituencies. As I said earlier, a lot of the money, over \$9 million, is rebated to Nunavummiut and the remainder goes to the programs

and services that we have to deliver as a government.

Again, as a taxpayer, I'm always interested in trying not to pay more taxes myself, so this is something we can look into, but I can't guarantee or commit that there are going to be any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Question 285 – 3(2): Legality of Two Percent Payroll Tax**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to get clarification for my fellow colleague here from South Baffin. Isn't it illegal not to rebate the full 2 percent to residents of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. I do not believe it's illegal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I was in Yellowknife when that was introduced and I think it was 1 percent at the time, but the spirit and intent of this payroll tax was to tax those who were not living in the NWT but were receiving services and other kinds from the NWT government. That was their contribution. It was not to tax NWT residents; they would pay the tax for

now but they would get all of the percentage back that they had paid for.

Now, I'm hearing from my fellow colleagues that that's not the case. They only get part of the 2 percent for those who are paying higher taxes with a larger salary. Why isn't this being adjusted so that all of the residents get the full 2 percent back? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Arvaluk indicated, it started in the Government of the Northwest Territories at the time at 1 percent and then it was increased to 2 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it's not a secret that this 2 percent tax has been around for years. I'm surprised that Mr. Arvaluk is unaware that not everybody was getting rebated their full 2 percent. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier to Mr. Schell, over \$9 million is rebated to Nunavummiut and the balance goes to fund programs and services that this government and this Assembly delivers to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very confused now because the whole idea was not to tax, money-wise, Nunavummiut or NWT residents but rather, they would pay the percentage and then get all of their percentage back. That's not the case apparently and I

trusted the government so much that I never checked it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm upset that the spirit and intent of the law is not being practiced. Can the minister then assure the House that a full review will be done and recommendations will be made to the House? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Arvaluk for so staunchly standing up for the employees of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I know nobody likes to pay taxes. Most of us don't. We certainly don't like to pay more taxes than what we have to pay. But Mr. Speaker, over \$7 million of pay roll taxes go to programs and services that the government delivers, that the Members of the Legislative Assembly want delivered in their communities or riding.

I, as the Minister of Finance and a resident of Nunavut, have no problems paying a little bit extra tax to help people in Nunavut. I hope that all Members of this House feel that same way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister. However, I find it very interesting that the whole idea of this payroll tax was to tax those who are not residents of Nunavut, who are working up here and they have a home down south. The purpose was not to tax the residents of the NWT or

Nunavummiut later on at which we grandfathered this program.

Will the minister then, for the purpose of honouring the spirit and intent of this law, the payroll tax, review and report to this committee with recommendations on how to make it legal for residents to be taxed out of the payroll tax or remove them from participation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance is constantly reviewing programs and services and taxes that we have to collect and remit to the Government of Canada.

As I indicated in answer to Mr. Schell's question, this is something we can look at. I can't guarantee any positive changes, but it might be helpful to understand where the tax came from, why it was 1 percent initially, and why it is 2 percent. I know payroll taxes have come up in the context of consultants from the south that come up here to work and not having to pay payroll tax. We have discussed that in the past.

Again, if this is an issue that members feel passionate about, we can certainly have our officials, when time permits, look into it and report back to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 286 – 3(2): Outcome of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

I'll keep Mr. Okalik's written question here so I don't make the mistake of asking the same question.

In regard to her recent visit with other ministers to Copenhagen, I'm just wondering if the minister could explain what some of the specific outcomes were from this trip. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question. When we went to Copenhagen, it was very important because we were invited as Canadian representatives. We covered various issues and also met with high-level individuals in the government. I also made a presentation to a forum where ICC was given an opportunity to talk about Nunavut-specific issues with regard to climate change.

I made various presentations at different venues. During Mr. Prentice's luncheon, I made a presentation as a Nunavut representative and I was given an opportunity to make a presentation on behalf of the three territories, Nunavut, the Yukon, and the Northwest

Territories. I was their representative.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I  
was wondering if the Minister could  
explain: did she speak directly to the  
issue of global warming? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I touched on  
important subjects regarding climate  
change. We, in the circumpolar  
countries, are the first affected by  
climate change.

We do not contribute much to pollution,  
but we feel the effects, such as changing  
ice conditions and global warming to  
some extent. We also focused on  
infrastructure issues that could help us in  
dealing with climate change.

For example, we use fossil fuels  
exclusively to heat our homes and for  
transportation. We're looking at  
alternative energy sources such as hydro,  
wind, and solar energy. Clean energy is  
all around us. In order to harness these  
energy sources, we will need funds to  
develop them. I thought it was very  
important to get that message out to  
Canadians and to the international world.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Your second  
supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Thanks for that response. With some of

the concerns that we have up in the High  
Arctic, and Mr. Arvaluk has mentioned  
in the past about the Baffin Bay and the  
problems that we're having with polar  
bears and polar bear habitat, I know a lot  
of constituents in my community get  
very frustrated with the fact that it seems  
like, by no cause of their own or nothing  
they've done, they're actually having to  
suffer because of outside forces.

So it's nice to know that the Premier was  
over there supporting issues like that.  
Will there be a formal report for this trip  
and the contingent that went over to  
Copenhagen? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you. I can make the information  
available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Could the Premier commit to tabling it  
in the House once it's finished? Thank  
you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) 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. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 129 – 3(2): Canada Ratifies United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today an official announcement by the Government of Canada dated March 11, 2010. The announcement indicates that the federal government has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with and I quote, “the support of all provinces and territories.”

I am a bit surprised that our government may not be aware that it has supported this federal decision. Thank you.

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

Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Tabled Document 130 – 3(2): The Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio Collection**

**Mr. Komoartok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio Collection Catalogue.

Earlier today, I referred to the accomplishments of the weavers at the studio in my community. I would like to share this catalogue which represents

several tapestries that were created at the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio since 1990.

You can call there and see if you can get some work commissioned or get more information on the Uqqurmiut Arts Centre in Pangnirtung. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 131 – 3(2): Recruitment and Retention of Inuit Nurses in Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the document prepared by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. It's on the recruitment and retention of Inuit nurses in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 15 – Legal Treatment of Apologies Act – Notice**

**Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Notice**

**Bill 17 – Justice Statutes Amendment Act – Notice**

**Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Notice**

**Bill 26 – Securities Transfer Act – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have five notices of motions for first reading of bills and I'll read them in order.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, that Bill 15, the *Legal Treatment of Apologies Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, that Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, that Bill 17, the *Justice Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, that Bill 25, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, that Bill 26, the *Securities Transfer Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Bill 20 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to the Education Act – Notice**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010,

that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to the Education Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Notice**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. 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.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:00 and Committee resumed at 15:27*

**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 the fiscal year 2010-11. This afternoon, we will continue with the review of Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. If time permits, we will commence the review of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for 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. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Good day. To my left is Deputy Minister Kathleen Lausman and to my right is Director of Financial Services Alma Power. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Committee members, (interpretation) as you will recall, we completed J-6. (interpretation ends) J-7. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Protection Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,606,000. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-7, under the Grants and Contributions line item, I have no idea what this is for.

I believe that search and rescue teams in the communities still lack resources needed when they are essential and beneficial to our communities. Do you provide financial support services to them? I wouldn't know this as I haven't been a hamlet council member since 1989.

Is the Grants and Contributions line item used for community search and rescue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these funds are set aside for training search and rescue personnel under the Municipal Training Organization.

When a search and rescue effort is underway in a community, we also provide funding to assist the search and rescue teams in the communities when they are actually conducting searches. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to Canadian sovereignty, the Conservative government, through the Canadian Coast Guard, is spearheading some initiatives to conduct more exercises that showcase our ownership of the Arctic. Can we expect any new search and rescue helicopter teams to be assigned year-round to Nunavut some time down the road?

I believe that the Conservative government is working hard to demonstrate its sovereignty over the Canadian Arctic, judging from the recent announcements made about docks and small craft harbours that will be constructed in Nunavut. I wonder who to ask about these issues, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation) I know what he's talking about is a capital item, but Minister Kusugak, if you would like to respond.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot speak for the Conservative government in terms of their position on the construction of docks, but in terms of our position, we haven't even discussed building a site to accommodate new helicopters. For that matter, we have no idea what the Conservative government is thinking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Obviously, as voters, we try to keep tabs on what the government is doing for Nunavut. I thank the minister for

advising me of that. I don't think I have any further comments to make either.

However, with respect to the local search and rescue teams, it would be great to be able to give them more assistance for the hard work they do. I know that they have been equipped with the SPOT devices, which assist hunters, and I thank the minister for that initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is prudent to try and assist the local search and rescue teams as they are our local partners. We support them in various ways, such as sending equipment to some communities, such as those six-wheeled vehicles. When we can offer assistance materially, we try to do so to the best of our abilities.

We have also tried to assist our hunters, especially to have the SPOT devices available for hunters to sign out and use. I have one of those models. It would make everyone's job easier if the hunters were to go and pick these up prior to their trips. The technology can be useful only if the hunters utilize them.

When hunters have that technology, it makes the job of the search and rescue teams a lot easier. The technology cannot work if you just leave it on the shelf, so we urge all hunters to take advantage of the technology while they are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to thank the minister for his response. Although he is referring to another model, he mentioned the Argos, which can have six or eight wheels. With respect to that particular comment, a question just arose which assists me in my line of questioning.

I would like to mention another vehicle, namely, hovercraft. I have received correspondence about this type of vehicle, perhaps it was this summer. What I was wondering was if the minister has had an opportunity to research the hovercraft models. They hover just above the ground or water. So I wondered if his department was contacted by the manufacturers to see if they could purchase certain models for their purposes. Thank you.

I understand that this is a capital purchase item, so I am asking him about the vehicles related to that. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Now, why did I mention that? I'm just kidding.

Hovercraft can't be used up north because Nunavut has ice and it's impossible to use them up here. I urge that individual or firm that sent the information out through the computer to try and do testing of hovercraft up here, but we're not responsible for those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): In conclusion, I would like to thank the minister and I will not be in support of hovercraft now that I know what the minister said. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was not a question and it was more of a comment that he will not be in support. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Under J-7, Grants and Contributions, \$2,345,000, I would like to get clarification on what that will be used for. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): The line item is for search and rescue in the community and also for training of emergency search and rescue personnel and their equipment. Some of it is also used for fire prevention by the firefighters, but it's mainly used for emergency search and rescue operations. That's what the funding line item is used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk, I would like you to know that a detailed breakdown of the line item is on J-11. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, I saw that on J-11. For that reason, I know that your department is not responsible for the agreement. However, in the Northwest Territories, there was an agreement to fund the Hunter Support Program. One-third would be paid for by

the federal government, one-third by the GNWT, and one-third by TFN.

As a GN representative, could you not talk with these entities about the Hunter Support Program? This funding could be used for boats, GPS, snowmobiles, and they sell floats and anything else, including CB radios. Perhaps you can ask if the funding could be used for satellite phones as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I was the minister allocating funds, I could request that, but our department does not have the jurisdiction over there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Yes, I would be very pleased. There were SPOT devices, I believe, and not too many people use CB radios anymore probably because the signals are not too good due to the hole in the ozone layer. Satellite phones, however, are always good to use. If anyone has a satellite telephone, we can then find them no matter they may be.

The reason why I'm asking this question is the items that are sold through the Hunter Support Program are sold at cost. They're non-profit. CB radios, GPS devices, floats, nets, etcetera are sold at a cheaper cost than at the Northern stores. I was wondering if you can request your Cabinet colleagues that as a government, we should try and provide support to the

public, such as using satellite phones. You can even use them at the North Pole. I was wondering if the minister is willing to discuss this matter with his colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. We have provided two satellite phones to all communities. They're either stationed in the RCMP or HTO office, but they're available at the community level. Different communities have various equipments that they can sign out and we pay for their phone calls and their operation. We also pay for the O&M for this equipment.

I would be very pleased if a member can talk to the appropriate minister face to face. It will be better if a member talks to the appropriate minister, but I can also discuss this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm confused. I don't even know which minister is responsible for the Hunter Support Program. Perhaps it's the Department of Environment or the Premier, but I don't think it's the Department of Environment. Anyways, we have no idea, so that's why I'm asking the minister if he can discuss this matter with his colleagues.

Satellite phones could also be sold at a cheaper rate because we purchase them from Arctic Ventures and other stores, or they order their satellite phones from

down south at a very expensive rate. So if they provide support, it will be cheaper for Nunavummiut to purchase. This is just a suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, I will look into that. I believe the Minister of Environment is responsible for that, but I will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Protection Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,606,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. J-8. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$32,370,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my old argument. Compensation and Benefits for \$12,547,000 is for your employees who are in the Capital Planning and Technical Services offices. How many PYs does that represent? Are all of these positions in Iqaluit because they are capital planners and technical service people? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 109 positions and they are all over the territory. They include settlement maintenance operators and so on. So they are right across the territory and there are 109 positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that is quite comparable to housing maintainers with the housing associations in the communities if you have compared it.

Now, for the Contract Services part, \$16,142,000 on line 6 is quite the jump from the revised estimates for 2009-2010. Why is that? Is that why you've got more architectural engineers and actually not building anything other than public houses? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That funding is for the maintenance of old buildings and new facilities, and funding for old buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** In other words, you build a community hall in Pond Inlet and you give out of the \$16,142,000 a portion to look after that building. Is that why it is called Contract Services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, this would be for the new schools, government offices, health facilities; government infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you still give that money to whoever is looking after and maintaining those buildings, whether they it's a housing association, or a co-op, or a private contractor in the communities, for the maintenance of the new government buildings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** To do those who are responsible for those things, yes. I hope that is clear. In cases, if it is the co-op that is maintaining the thing, then yes, as long as they are maintaining government infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the top part of the description of what this part of the department does, Capital Planning and Technical Services, it talks about asset life cycle management, including planning and assisting clients and stakeholders in identifying long-term capital requirements. Is that for like a facility study for expanding and

upgrading for other departments, like health or other departments within the government? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Kathleen respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department actually does assist with capital planning in education, health, justice, and so on, and our input is more of a technical nature. So we do provide estimates to other departments on life cycle investment required for existing infrastructure. We also provide an overview of projected and forecast costs to operate and maintain new infrastructure, so what would the utility cost be, maintenance cycles, and that kind of thing. In that sense, we work very closely with other government departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. One of the things that came up when we were doing capital funding was the \$300,000 that was sort of removed from the budget in the capital budget.

I have been racking my brain in trying to figure out if the Department of Justice is one of the departments you help in terms of life cycles of buildings. If BCC is in such disarray... because again, what I felt when I saying with that \$300,000

was the fact that the money was misrepresented in how it was put forward.

Did the Department of Justice come to talk to your department about helping with looking at that facility to see what needed to be done in terms of upgrading and making that place safe? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a pretty complex question, but yes, if I could have Kathleen answer that, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To perhaps clarify the planning, there are actually two parts to planning. One part is focused entirely on the program. So Justice would need to take a look at how they actually run their justice program in that facility. They come to us to provide the input on condition assessments of various components and provide technical advice on certain parts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Again, I know we're talking about two things I guess, the safety of the workers who are working in that environment and we're also talking about the safety of the inmates who are in there as well.

From what the minister's been telling us, programs are not able to be operated and facilities are getting run down. It would be nice to see that something is being moved forward. Has the Department of Justice come... I'm assuming you guys don't go out and solicit work, but if they come to you and ask... have they come to you asking for help? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to get into a discussion of he said, she said. I think these questions would be better dealt with if he would ask the Minister of Justice in terms of where they have been going and what they have been doing. I would be much more comfortable that way, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I definitely will be asking questions. Again, to me, it's a need. When we stood up replying to it, it was different ministers who stood up and recognized that it needed to be modernized and expanded, an assessment review needed to be done, a study needed to be done. If they're saying it needs to be done, I just wondered why all avenues were not followed through in terms of getting it done. I just figured since your department was responsible for stuff like that.

Just so I know when I get in front of Minister Peterson and ask him these questions, if his department does come to you and say, "We need help with this," is this something that your

department will take into consideration and help them with? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every department is responsible for their own planning. Our department is a very diverse department and we will do whatever we can to help where our department is asked of help. I can assure you that we also seek help from other departments too.

I don't want to get into a discussion where it becomes a finger-pointing seminar. I'm trying to avoid that. I think he would appreciate that. At the end of the day, I don't want to end up where the Minister of Justice or a minister of another department is sitting here and Ron says, "Well, that's not what such-and-such minister said. This is what they said." I don't want to get into that, so I would much prefer it if he would keep his line of questioning to those that we're responsible for.

He could ask the Minister of Justice appropriate questions as to what they're doing with the correctional facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'm not trying to point fingers; I'm merely trying to ask your department what you're responsible for. I believe it's within my right to ask whether your department is responsible for helping with planning like this. You gave me the answer that yes, you are. So I will take it up with the

appropriate minister and ask him. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The minister involved had told you that you learn a lot by asking a lot of questions.

>> *Laughter*

The minister must be learning a lot by answering questions.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go to the (interpretation ends) business plan under J-15, priorities for 2011-12. "Establish a full Building Inspection Division within the department." I would like to know what this division will do for the coming year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Ms. Lausman to answer that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is actually a fairly large undertaking and has been for some time. We are trying to put together a program in conjunction with other departments as well for building inspections. That's really to ensure that we've got buildings that are being built to the building code, that they are being built with fire safety and occupants' safety in mind, and that

they're also being built with some measure of energy efficiency.

In order to achieve that, we are looking at how this integrates with building codes and where the territory sits with regard to building codes, fire codes, plumbing codes, and energy codes as well. So it's a fairly complex program that we're trying to establish in consultation with a rather wide stakeholder group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's great to hear. Is there an ability? If the inspection division finds some deficiencies in buildings, how will they remedy these defects or whatever they may be if they don't meet the codes? How is this different from what's happening today? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Kathleen carry on with that line of answering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, the fire code and the plumbing code are the ones most used within the territory. We use the code relative to building inspections and most of it is around fire prevention.

We have a lot more work to do as a government to ensure that we have the codes widely adopted by the territory and published, and that we have consultation with the consulting marketplace as well as the constructing marketplace as well as homeowners so that we have a good knowledge of building codes out there for everyone to apply to their building, and that we also have a good inspection group to be working with builders when they're actually building it to ensure that codes are being met. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I heard a mention of fire codes and other codes. So this is just for new buildings, not for existing buildings. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** That's for existing and new buildings, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik:** Are there provisions for health violations in these existing buildings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be the Department of Health's responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I remember listening to my colleague and how he got bounced back and forth, and it sounds like one of them where it's one division in one department, another part in another division.

So I would have to go to Health to make sure that a building that our employees are working at... their health is at risk, so we would have to go Health on those matters? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Kathleen answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS works with a number of departments and groups, actually, around the safety of buildings. We work with air quality specialists, water quality specialists, and Workplace Health and Safety. Some of these are contracted specialists. Some work directly with Health, like for instance, water safety, and then the Workers' Compensation Board looks more specifically at worker safety and health issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): I'm done for now, but I'm sure that the rest of the members would like to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) J-8. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$32,370,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We will go back to J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$172,640,000. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, if we will have an opportunity to ask questions on page J-9. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. J-9 is just an information item. If you would like further clarification, you can ask a question. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on what is written here, I think it has to do with the fuel contractors in the communities. I want to ask the minister with respect to the accounts receivable for contractors that are providing petroleum products services on behalf of the government. After all, the fuel inventory belongs to

the government. Are there people who owe lots of money to the government, through the contractors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, no, there are no huge amounts owed to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Going back to page J-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$172,640,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are members agreed that CGS is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for their questions on our department. As we stated earlier, we have over 340 employees in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I just want to take this opportunity to thank the over 340 employees within our department. They work very hard so that things can run a little smoother. I just want to take this

opportunity to thank them all and keep up the good work. I would like to thank Ms. Lausman and Ms. Power for sitting with me today. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

For the information of the committee, Mr. Okalik will be the chairperson when we're dealing with housing.

### **Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. Minister Tootoo, responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, do you have any opening comments? Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Do you want me to go ahead with them?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee members, I just want to let you guys know ahead of time that I took your advice in trying to keep things short and sweet. My opening comments are not really long like they have been in the past in committee meetings. They are short and sweet and to the point, and I look forward to the questions after.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am very pleased to be able to meet with the Members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2010-11 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Fiscal 2010-11 GN funding to the Housing Corporation will increase by \$4,474,000 from the main estimates of 2009-2010. The major additional increase for 2010-11 includes \$6,564,000 for O&M costs for new public housing that will be available during the year, less a reduction of \$4,112,000 for fuel and power, as well as an increase of \$1,237,000 to offset the net reduction of our CMHC funding.

The need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative sources of funding. We look forward and I look forward to continue lobbying the federal government to discuss our growing housing issues in Nunavut and the requirements for extra funding for both capital and operating costs. Our federal partners, such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) - and during the rest of this time, I'll just refer to them as CMHC - are important to housing in Nunavut.

I would be very pleased to answer any questions that you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2010-11 main estimates and business plan and look forward to very good dialogue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): My colleagues, do you agree to bring in his witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

The minister's officials are now at the witness table. Welcome. For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce the new president for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This is his first Committee of the Whole appearance and he has a standing committee appearance under his belt, but this is his first Committee of the Whole appearance. To my right is our new president, Mr. Alain Barriault. I would like to welcome him to the Committee of the Whole. On my left is our CFO for the corporation, Lori Kimball. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome for making your appearance.

Does the Chairman of Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have any opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt, you may proceed.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials to our meeting. The minister stated earlier that his comments were short and sweet. Mine are not so short and maybe not so sweet.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on

Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the corporation's proposed 2010-11 main estimates of \$132,642,000 have increased by approximately 3.5 percent since the introduction of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. The number of positions in the corporation is 103. This is an increase of 33.0 PYs from its 2004-05 business plan.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2007-08 annual report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until June 15, 2009. It is very important that the corporation's annual reports be tabled in a timely manner. The standing committee recognizes that the corporation has been working with the Department of Finance to address issues related to reporting requirements involving local housing organizations' audited financial statements.

The Government of Nunavut's most recent annual reports on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 7, 2009. To date, these annual reports on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities have not included information on the activities of Crown corporations and agencies. The standing committee recommends that information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting, procurement

and leasing activities also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

During the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the government began the practice of providing annual ministerial letters of expectation to Crown corporations and agencies in order to establish priorities and provide direction with respect to their operations and initiatives. The current government, through its new Public Agencies Council, has indicated that it will be undertaking a Memorandum of Understanding-based approach to this process. The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of priority-setting items that are directed to Crown corporations and agencies, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

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

The corporation's draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that the "NHC executive is currently reviewing the organizational review draft document. Discussions are schedule for January 2010 to address next steps." During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned him on the progress made on this issue. It was unclear to the committee as to exactly what progress has been made on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's

organizational review. The standing committee looks forward to the minister updating the House at the earliest opportunity on this matter.

On January 26, 2009, the minister announced that the corporation will be “undertaking a comprehensive and Nunavut-wide housing needs survey.” During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, he informed members that the survey is expected to be completed in the spring of 2010. The minister also indicated that he would provide the [members] with a detailed update on the survey’s status. The standing committee looks forward to the minister providing this information at the earliest opportunity. The standing committee also looks forward to the minister tabling the results of this survey in the Legislative Assembly and supports the minister in his efforts to use these results to make the case for additional federal investments in housing.

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

GN Staff Housing will continue to exist in all other communities until private markets are established.”

In recent years, concerns have been raised with respect to the impact of the

GN’s staff housing policy on the government’s overall recruitment and retention efforts. The 2008 Budget Address announced that staff housing rents would be rolled back to January 2007 levels.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that its priorities include enhancing “the staff-housing portfolio, particularly in communities with growing staff housing requirements” and providing “an increased range of options to GN employees to encourage homeownership.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2010-13 business plan also indicates that one of its 2010-11 priorities is to “develop a Staff Housing Strategy” in collaboration with GN departments.

During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members questioned what the Nunavut Housing Corporation is doing regarding the government’s staff housing policy and strategy. The minister indicated that the government’s formal staff housing policy was inherited from the previous government and that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has no specific plans at present to change the staff housing policy. The standing committee encourages the minister to keep the Legislative Assembly fully informed on this issue. Given that the policy that is still in place today commits the government to “withdrawing” from staff housing in the future, it is important the government clarify its plans in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2008-09 business plan indicated that a workshop was “held in Rankin Inlet in April 2007 where the

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

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the coming year is to “work with senior department officials to begin a process for reviewing and updating the Rent Scale.” During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members requested an update on this issue. The minister indicated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has assigned staff to review the issue and that a plan should be completed by the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Last fall, all Members of the Legislative Assembly agreed that comprehensive reviews of the public housing rent scale and the income support program are required. Members noted that these reviews should focus on identifying and removing disincentives to enter the workforce. Given the importance of this issue, the standing committee looks forward to the minister keeping the Legislative Assembly fully updated on the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s work in this area.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to “Strengthen LHO financial management by the NHC

taking over the direct payment of the non-controllable utility expenses for LHOs and allowing them to dedicate their resources to increased internal financial management on administration, maintenance and collection of rents.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s business plan also indicates that it has “developed a centralized direct payment process and is now making direct payments for non-controllable utility expenses on behalf of the LHOs. However, the NHC is continuing to populate the database.” The standing committee looks forward to updates on the success of this initiative, which the Nunavut Housing Corporation anticipates to be completed this year.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2007-08 annual report indicated that a total of \$6,148,000 was spent on homeowner programs in 2007-08. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that the corporation has “completed its review of existing homeownership program policies and procedures and has developed a new Homeownership Programs Manual in support of the current homeownership programs that are being delivered. This manual will assist the NHC Programs Staff in the efficient, effective, equitable delivery and administration of the NHC’s Homeownership Programs.” Members recognize that the corporation’s budget for homeownership programs is primarily funded through its annual capital estimates. Members encourage the minister to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s new Homeownership Programs Manual in the Legislative Assembly.

In recent years, the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation initiated water and sewage pilot projects in three communities. The 2009-2010 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services indicated that “The three original pilot communities were not satisfied with the block funding terms and conditions implemented by the designated project sponsor; the participating communities decided that they no longer wanted to be involved. As a result of having no participating communities, the pilot project was cancelled.”

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members questioned why the communities decided not to participate in the projects. The minister informed the committee that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is not opposed to the idea of revisiting the concept behind the pilot projects. However, it remains unclear exactly why the corporation and the Department of Community and Government Services have been unsuccessful in working together to deliver these pilot projects. The standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Community and Government Services work together on this issue and looks forward to the minister reporting to the Legislative Assembly on this initiative.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 business plan indicated that “In March 2009, responsibility for the homelessness file was transferred from the Department of Education to the NHC. The Corporation is in the process of preparing a framework to establish a Homelessness Secretariat.” \$200,000

was budgeted by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for this function in 2009-2010.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is “researching homelessness governing structures and models from other jurisdictions. Development and implementation of a governing structure is expected to be completed early 2010.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2010-11 main estimates have allocated \$400,000 for the establishment of the Homelessness Secretariat. The standing committee looks forward to regular updates on the work of this secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do my colleagues have any general comments before we move on? It seems like no one has their hand up. I’m sorry. Mr. Schell has a comment to make. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 1, it was noted that the GN 2008-09 annual report on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities weren't tabled until December 7 and these reports have not included information on the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of the Crown corporation agencies.

I guess my question is: when will the minister commit to tabling the report of the corporation's contracting, procurement and leasing activities in the leg.? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo, would you like to respond? Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. The corporation has provided a copy of our 2007-08 contracting and procurement practices, a list of them all, and I had committed that I would check. They're working on finalizing with someone who can fill them out to finish up the 2008-09 one. So I'm hoping to be able to be in a position this June, so I'll probably be able to table them during the fall sitting if we don't get it before our spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Schell, do you have additional comments? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going back to the staff housing. You mentioned in your opening comments that you're going to be eliminating them in communities, in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, but they're still going to have them in the other communities. But

of course, we all know there is always a shortage of staff housing.

What I had mentioned to the finance minister in Question Period today was that maybe if they gave an incentive for people owning their own homes and if they give them a little bit more of a subsidy or whatever for owning their own homes, maybe they could solve the problem of staff housing. Has the minister discussed this with the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of programs that we have dealing with homeownership, like the Downpayment Assistance Program, the HERP program, and a bunch of different programs.

As far as trying to develop that more, I said that we would be reviewing all of our programs. I think some of the information that we will be able to use in reviewing our programs to see if they're meeting the objectives set out for them is we will get some of the results and responses that we have in the survey that will give us more information to more accurately tailor our programs in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going back to page 4 where it was mentioned that there were three pilot projects done on the water and sewer and that there was kind of a disagreement or it fell apart between the



Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I'm just wondering if CG&S and the Housing Corporation have gotten together to try to work out a plan that will work to satisfy both of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Tootoo, would you like to try and respond to the question?

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I committed that we would move forward on that. I think the issue in the past is where I said that the corporation was in favour, but we didn't want to move forward until we had solid information in order to base our decision on. It's my understanding that we still haven't received that information from Community and Government Services.

That is something that I'm sure was brought up in Community and Government Services when they were in Committee of the Whole and here again too. So that will be something that we will be pursuing with them to be able to look at if they can provide us with the information and reports to support the program. If that information is there, then we would take a look at it with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any questions or general comments? No one has their hand up. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page L-3. Are there any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We talk about

homeownership and stuff, but we also have, throughout our territory, a lot of people who own their own homes and they want to sell their homes.

As far as I know, there is no certified home inspector in Nunavut. I wonder if the minister feels that there should be a home inspector in Nunavut so that they can inspect homes that are being sold private individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. That's a very good question. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for raising that. That's a question that has been brought to me for a number of years now. I know, for example, here in Iqaluit, the city was looking at hiring a building inspector. I know in the south, it's all private sector individuals who get the training required to do that as well as the insurance to go along with it.

When I was sitting on this side of the House, I was asking those questions, talking to the government officials, and then at that time, the issue with having someone who works for the government go around and do these is a potential liability issue.

I know individuals who are set up in that profession with the training who do have the insurance to go along with it that covers them is something that I don't believe that we would be able to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if a person wants to sell his home and no matter what the condition it's in, if it's unfit to be in structurally, there is nothing safeguarding the potential buyer from coming back and... I don't know. It seems kind of weird that we don't have somebody in place in our territory that can inspect homes. I'm wondering if there's any way the government could entertain or somehow see if there's a way that we can get one that's available to Nunavummiut if needed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Very good question, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is something that is needed. As I said, this is an issue that's been brought to my attention a number of times over the last number of years.

As far as how to go about getting that set up, I think there are restrictions that require certain types of training and the biggest thing, I think, in that profession is having the liability. If they certify a building and something's wrong with it, and they come back after that individual in the future, that's where they have the insurance to go along with it. That's something that I think would present a challenge to GN staff going around and doing that.

I think that's something that we could explore, looking at trying to find ways, if there was a way, where we, as a government, could do that and just open up some discussions with the Minister of Community and Government Services. They have all of the electrical inspectors, the fire marshal, and things like that. So we could take an opportunity to sit and

chat with them to see if that's something that could be set up or what barriers are there to prevent us from moving in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the minister updating us in the future on this issue.

I have a different question. During our standing committee meeting, we asked you for a letter with the amount that was going to be used from the Nunavut Housing Corporation's operating capital to facilitate the building of a warehouse or the acquiring of a warehouse for the Iqaluit Housing Authority.

Your response was that it would cost \$4.75 million of money that you would be taking from your working capital and at the same time, none of your programs seem to be decreasing in dollar value. How come the Housing Corporation has all of this extra money in their working capital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just like cash in the bank and interest that's earned on people, there are some programs we inherited where people are paying mortgages to the corporation and that's where the money comes in. It's something that was part of the division of assets and liabilities in 1999. Part of that came along with money in the bank for the Housing Corporation on that. So it's outside of what's voted on and what we have in our budgets, if that's what the member is alluding to. Hopefully that answers his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just change to a different question. During the hearings of the Auditor General, it indicated that there was between \$11 million and \$12 million in outstanding rental arrears across the territory. Do we have an updated figure on what it is today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Who would like to respond? Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I get this correct, that's the reserve rate, which I assume is for doubtful accounts, basically, or bad debts, it's around nine million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** \$2 million less, so that's a little better. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to see that that number is decreasing. This is kind of a different question, I guess. When it comes to private homeowners in a community, I kind of did a small survey within our own community and it seems that close to half of the people do not have insurance on their own homes.

I pretty well know that the Housing Corporation has a second mortgage probably on half of the homes in the community that are privately owned. Is the Housing Corporation doing anything to protect their assets? Technically, it's still a Housing Corporation asset until the mortgage is forgiven over a period of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a good point. As a second mortgage holder, second in line if something happened, part of the agreement that the corporation has with individuals is that they require insurance. The first mortgage holder, being whatever financial institution that the mortgage is through, would require those individuals to have insurance as well as part of their mortgage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What does your department do to enforce the fact that they should have insurance? What are your monitoring procedures to make sure that they have insurance and what do you do in cases where they don't? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a good issue. I think in the past, even to now, we rely on the interest of the first mortgage holder, being the financial institutions, to monitor and that. If we get something from them that would indicate that someone didn't, then we would pursue it. Our staff would require them to get the required insurance on their home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main reason I'm big on this insurance issue is because if something happens in the community where one of these houses catch fire and they lose the house, automatically, these people are going to have no choice but to move into public housing and it's going to further the burden of public housing issues. All of the fires in Iqaluit recently, I am assuming they just moved to more public housing. If it happens in the communities, we're going to have the same issue.

So it's kind of important that we stress insurance to the homeowners. It's another reason why I was questioning Income Support on providing some kind of assistance to individuals who are in their own homes and on income support. I was hoping that Income Support would look at supporting paying a portion of their insurance on their houses. Again, it's because of the fact of protecting our assets.

So anything that your department can do and talk with other departments to ensure that these homeowners have some kind of insurance on their properties would be greatly needed for sure. That was just a comment, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo, would you like to try and respond to the question?

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a very valid point and issue, and I will commit to the member and to the Members of this House that I will direct or ask our homeownership program people to

review our files and follow up with the clients out there to ensure that insurance is in place.

I know in the past, there were cases where if individuals had insurance and then for some reason, it got cancelled, the lien holders would get notified. I'm pretty sure it's like that with the banks. If the insurance gets cancelled for whatever reason, then they're notified and then that puts them on notice to go after that client to make sure that they get the appropriate insurance in place.

Like I said, I'll commit to have our staff review those files and check it out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the building inspectors to inspect existing homes for private individuals, the minister had mentioned that there could be a liability issue. I just don't understand why the government can't get insurance just like lawyers and accountants do for making mistakes. I'm sure that they must have some type of insurance when they inspect their own buildings if something goes wrong, then it's covered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Very good question, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know our staff who go around and do inspections or technical staff who look at our units, I would say and I don't believe that there's anything out there to cover them if they make a

mistake other than we end up having to pay to fix that mistake.

The issue of liability, when it extends to a non-GN or non-Housing Corporation asset, if you have a staff member from the Housing Corporation or if it was the Housing Corporation going in and doing an inspection, or if it was someone from Community and Government Services going in and doing an inspection on a non-owned asset or someone else's private home, that could open up the liability to come back without that individual having the building inspector training. I guess there's probably some type of a certificate that's required in training to be able to perform those inspections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what the member is also asking is: is there a certain standard required of home inspectors today? By the sounds of it, anybody can open up a shop and then get money to pretend to inspect, perhaps, and then the homeowner is left with a major mortgage and real potential defects in the home. So maybe that's what the member is also referring to. Minister Tootoo, do you want to follow that up?

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like anything, if someone's an engineer, a lawyer, or a doctor, they have their own association or group that regulates and monitors them.

My understanding, I believe, is that there is a homeowner inspectors association that set the standards in the south for individuals, if they wish to enter into that field, that they have to demonstrate that they have the appropriate training and experience to meet the standards set by

the association to be able to be certified to be a house inspector. That would be my guess.

Maybe I'll ask Mr. Barriault if he can add to that, if he likes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Monsieur Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In many provinces and other jurisdictions within Canada, it is a self-regulated industry.

Typically, a building inspector or a home inspector would obtain errors and omissions insurance. Depending on what kind of training and work experience they can demonstrate to the insurance company that will be providing the coverage will affect, of course, what they pay for that insurance.

That insurance is available, but it can be costly if you're not affiliated with some kind of a certification agency. Some jurisdictions as well do provide home inspection certification through the Building Officials Association, which is usually the same body that would issue municipal building permits.

So there's inconsistency throughout Canada in a way that it's approached, but there is more than one way to go about it. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. (interpretation ends) Any further questions? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Housing Corporation look at ways of doing it, whatever it takes, and figure out if there is a way of getting an inspector here in the North to do it that is

affiliated with somebody down south that is obviously qualified and is going to be able to get a reasonable insurance rate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Very good question, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I had indicated earlier to Mr. Rumbolt that I would discuss the issue with the Minister of Community and Government Services to see what obstacles are in our way from being able to move forward on something like this or how we can do it. I do agree with both Mr. Schell and Mr. Rumbolt that this is a very important issue.

In some cases, you could have individuals buying a lemon house, if you want to call it that. When you buy a car, it's called a lemon because it's always breaking down. If individuals don't know what they're looking for or what to look for when they're purchasing a house, sometimes you could have them buying a house with lots of problems that they're not aware about until after. So I do agree that it is something that is desperately needed.

I know that in Iqaluit here, it's a municipal issue. They have been looking, in the past, at hiring an inspector to do that. I would assume that it's through their permitting lands and development section in the city. Like I said, I will discuss it with the Minister of Community and Government Services to see if we can find a way to move forward on this. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On September 18 of last year, you and the housing ministers of NWT and Yukon announced that you were looking forward to meeting with the federal Minister responsible for Housing before the end of the year. What commitments do you and other territorial housing ministers realistically hope to attain from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say that we did meet with CMHC Minister Finley just in December. I think the commitment we got out of her at the time... as this was the first time that the federal ministers and federal officials have been at the table in four years, I think it was a good move to one, get her there and we had a commitment to continue working together. She acknowledged that the housing across the country is an issue not just for the individual provinces and territories to worry about but it's something that we do need to look at and work in partnership with all levels of government to try and help address that issue.

We have been saying for the three territories that we would like to see some type of new funding arrangement for housing across the North. The old way of doing things, it just hasn't worked up here. The little piecemeal allocation of funding, we know it's a challenge for us to be able to plan for that. We have been pushing for some type of a stable, long-term commitment of funding so that we could capitalize on that.

For planning purposes, everything from lot development, you know, when you're rushing at the last minute to develop lots, you pay a premium for that. So if we know over time that we are going to have let's say a five-year commitment or whatever, then we can better plan on how to follow through with the delivery throughout the territory. So those are some of the things that we're working on and we're hoping to be able to move forward with.

I know that there has been a lot of good will, I think, on behalf of the federal government. We have seen \$100 million coming through the stimulus package. I think they have seen the economic impact of that not only here in the territory but also in the southern jurisdictions, as well as it is a fact that everything that all three territories buy to build houses comes from southern provinces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go back to the staff housing issue. When the GN announced its new staff housing strategy in 2005, it indicated that it was going to withdraw from funding staff housing in places like Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay over the next five years and in ten years, it was going to probably eliminate it altogether. Is this still the government's plan?

In your draft, 2010-13 business plan, it indicates that one of Nunavut Housing Corporation's priorities for 2010-11 is to "develop a Staff Housing Strategy." Does this mean that the government is considering making changes to its staff

housing policy that was announced in 2005? If so, what changes are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chairman of the standing committee pointed out in 2008, basically, the government of the day froze that policy in place where it was and rolled it back to the 2007 levels and that's where it's staying. There are no plans to move it forward. It basically got stopped in its tracks at that time with no plan on moving forward anymore on that policy, which would leave it exactly where it was.

I know that we are planning on sitting down with other government departments to start looking at developing a new staff housing policy and strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. (interpretation ends) It must have been a very good government to continue to follow that lead. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask this question as I'm sure the minister knows that some seniors are so old that they no longer work but started out as homeowners and they face mounting bills. It has happened where the Housing Corporation takes back the private unit and treats it as a public house either due to the elder losing their spouse or foreclosure. I know that it occurs once in a while, so I would like to get an explanation from the minister if this is still going on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of returning private homes to public housing in cases of elders on a fixed income who cannot maintain a house, it is something that has happened and it still does. It's looked at on a case-by-case basis and it is only moved forward on if the circumstances warrant it and if the homeowner is in agreement with it. It's not where we will just go in and say we're taking it and putting it as a public housing unit.

There are consultations that do take place with the homeowner if that is what their wishes are and everything is explained to them. The differences of it going to public housing or staying as a homeowner is all explained to them. The final decision is the clients themselves who decide if that is something that they wish to do or not. That also is for seniors.

There have been some cases in the past where, I think you could call it a quick claim, if the bank is foreclosing, we will buy out the bank's portion because we have a second leaning on it and sometimes put that unit into the public housing inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear an answer to my previous question. I apologize, Mr. Chairman, I would like to proceed with my question. Will this program be continued or will it be ongoing as per the minister's comment

about this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The minister did indeed respond that this program is continuing as of this date. Minister, is that what you stated? Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated that it is, but it's looked at on a case-by-case basis with individuals who move forward who are requesting that. Thank you. Sorry for not making that clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Yes, Minister Tootoo, when you answer for a while, the person listening gets lost every now and then, so try and be brief. (interpretation) Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked this question once before when Statistics Canada was planning to go around to the communities to conduct a survey. At that time, I tried to explain to the minister to have the homeless included in the questionnaire. There are employed and working poor who are homeless and just living with their relatives even though they're employed. I asked whether these individuals would be included in the survey conducted by Statistics Canada. The minister replied that it would be Statistics Canada that would conduct the survey.

They would hire approximately 22 people to conduct the survey, although they already had assistance from the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. I apologize; I meant both the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics as well as Statistics



Canada were to conduct this survey. I posed this question that if the Nunavut Housing Corporation wasn't going to be part of the survey team, how would your participation be included or how would the department be able to insert questions they wanted raised in the questionnaire by the 22 employees?

I feel that a survey of this kind has to include individuals who are actually homeless. I would also like to know if the homeless people in the communities will have an opportunity to voice their concerns when the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey is being conducted. Has this been incorporated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) This is also for homeless issues, I believe, to the Homeless Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. I appreciate the member's question. The issue of homelessness will be identified as the community interviewers who are going around and doing the survey in the communities are going around to the households. It will be, I think, one of the questions when they're checking where people sleep on a regular basis if they're not always members of that unit. So it will help identify the numbers of the hidden homelessness that we face here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that was short enough.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Could the minister tell us if the homeless were also

included in the survey? The way I see it now is that I believe that it was the head of the household who was going to be interviewed. What type of plan did you have so that the homeless were included as part of the survey?

Can you elaborate further on where you went to interview the homeless? Did you ask them the reason why they are homeless was because of their age or why they are homeless when they are able and willing to work? How were you able to reach these homeless people for the interviews? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, I believe the surveyors are asking about information of everybody in the household. So if there was someone who is not a regular member of that household or whatever, that would be identified. What we would gain from the survey would be, hopefully, we could put a number to the hidden homeless people that we have in Nunavut. As far as the particulars of why, I don't think the surveyors would get into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. (interpretation ends) I think the member is saying that there are some people living in shacks, for example. Were those interviewed? Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any shacks that were identified by the community where people are living in, the surveyors have

gone and are planning on going to.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo.  
Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): My last question, Mr. Chairman. On November 27, 2009, when the minister appeared in front of us, I asked him about the issue of homelessness.

He now seems to be saying that some of the homeless individuals might not have been interviewed if the community members didn't know where they lived. I would like you to remind the 22 interviewers to look for homeless persons so that they could be included in the survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll pass that information onto the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics to again pass onto their staff doing the interviews. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are there any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a couple more quick questions and see if the minister can give some quick responses.

>> *Laughter*

In previous committee meetings, we have discussed the importance of having an appeals board in particular for public housing when it comes to the allocation of units. Has your department done any planning or consideration of an appeals

board for public housing tenants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** A very good question, Mr. Rumbolt. I believe this came out of the Auditor General's report. It was asked of your department. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is something that you were quite vocal about during our last committee appearance and it's something that the corporation has moved forward with.

We have retained an individual with a lot of experience in housing or a rental officer type individual. We're having a meeting with that individual next week to go over some of this. They have developed some options for us to be able to take a look at as to what might be the best way to proceed in setting up and looking at appeals for public housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Are there any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question, hopefully my final question, will be in relation to tenant relation officers.

I have stated in the past many times how important it is to have a good tenant relations officer in your community and the toughness and the challenges that tenant relations officers have to face in their positions. Has your department come up with any kind of strategy to give more training to tenant relations officers on a regular basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for pointing that out. Every community where I have went, when I would get introduced to the tenant relations officer, I said that's probably one of the worst jobs in Nunavut. It's worse than our job, I think. I always commend them for doing it because it's not an easy job to do.

The corporation has redone, revised, and updated the Tenant Relations Officer Manual and a part of this new manual includes counselling on arrears and things like that, so that's work that has taken place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are there any questions? (interpretation ends) Mr. Rumbolt, you're done? Okay. The next one I have on the list is Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going back to when we brought up the issue about the aging oil tanks throughout Nunavut. The Nunavut Housing Corporation was putting that as a priority to explore addressing issues of environmental liability because of the aging oil tanks throughout Nunavut by initiating an Oil Tank Replacement Program that prioritized the replacement of oil tanks for seniors and vulnerable homeowners. What's the status of this initiative?

**Chairman:** Very good question, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hoping to be able to make an announcement on this program within the next month. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** And also going back to the programs that they have in place now for replacing existing oil tanks in public housing units. For the first year, the Housing Corporation bought the tanks, but for the second year and every year thereafter, it's coming out of the M&I fund that is used by the communities to fix up old housing units, which is badly needed. Unfortunately, it's taking money away from those types of repairs by having to replace these tanks.

Has the Housing Corporation looked at other ways of coming up with money to replace these oil tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) I don't know if this is covered in this budget, it's probably capital, but I'll let the minister answer the question. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are quite correct, but I have no problem with answering the member's question.

The initial launch of the program the corporation kick-started started off with that. The whole intention always was that it was closer to our M&I projects under the public housing units, so that's where it would go. It was more of a kick-start to get it going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Any further questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will continue from my friend's, Mr. Schell, questions. There are many homeowners in Kugaaruk and in Repulse Bay. The Housing Corporation has the number to buy oil tanks in bulk, whereas it can be very costly for the individual homeowner, if you will. I'm wondering, as a homeowner, for example, if I can buy a new oil tank at cost from the Housing Corporation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) I believe the minister made a commitment that he will be doing an announcement in a month's time. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully, in an announcement that I'm hoping to be able to make in the next month, some of those issues will be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Any further questions on housing? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a question being asked on whether it is a capital item or not. In any event, it is with regard to private homeowners and the homeownership assistance programs, such as the Materials Assistance Program, to replace a hot water heater or boiler as an example.

I have seen that in Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour when there is construction work in the communities, there is always a shortage of qualified oil burner mechanics. It seems like only the staff of the local housing authority have this capability in the communities. This

becomes an issue for private homeowners who obtain assistance because they cannot get their replacement equipment installed. This has happened quite frequently due to the unavailability of properly qualified tradespeople. Is it possible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to assist these homeowners so that they are not placed in a bind?

There are no homeowners associations in most of the communities. Do you have a program for homeowners that could give them support on these types of issues in the future or is this type of assistance already in place? I would like to hear from the minister on that because of the difficulty with the insurers that require them to install such equipment and the replacement of fuel tanks when they don't have the properly trained service personnel and the homeowner is incapable of servicing it themselves either due to being a single mother or a widow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If someone needs to replace their hot water tank or boilers, it's something that they could do under the Emergency Repair Program. Also, I would say that if you get a hold of a contractor and someone would say, "How much to get the boiler changed?" So part of that would be from a contractor and would be not only for the purchase of the boiler but the changing of it as well.

I know an issue that was brought up last year in some communities where they don't have the specified trades

individuals. Our housing maintainers are trained to maintain the boilers, but they're not trained to install new boilers. They don't have that level of certification to be able to do that.

As far as the maintenance work on things like that, if an individual went to the local housing organization and for the fee or the cost of that individual's time and whatever labour or parts to do that, if they had time after looking after what they need to do for public housing in that community, they have, in past, done that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are there any questions? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my point of view, I see more and more homeowners who are tired of waiting for this type of assistance. I apologize, but the reason why I bring that up is because homeowners now obtain the funding to get the work done.

However, there is no one capable of performing the tasks. Most qualified tradespeople and contractors tend to be overwhelmed by work, particularly during the fall. I would like this to be included in the list of considerations that the minister is reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a challenge even here in Iqaluit, where you have a number of companies that do that. Even to try and get someone to do something, unless it's

a flat out emergency or freeze-up, it could be waiting months. Even in a place like here where there's a number of companies offering the same service, there are not enough of those tradespeople out there.

One of our pitches to the federal government is to keep this type of funding like they have through the trust and through the stimulus package coming. Over time, we will be able to train those individuals from the communities through their being apprentices so that over time, there is someone with those skills in all of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to Mr. Schell, a bad oil tank becomes an environmental liability and that's one thing, but the other thing is that according to a home insurance company, a bad oil tank is also the homeowner's liability.

So I think it's very crucial and important that homeowners are able to buy affordable new tanks. To do that, we can use the capability of the Housing Corporation in buying bulk at the community level. It can get very costly if an individual homeowner buys a tank in the middle of winter from places like Yellowknife and Edmonton. The only way to get it is by air.

I think it's very critical that the Nunavut Housing Corporation work with the individual homeowners in the communities in Nunavut across the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) That was a good comment. Are there any other questions or comments? We are at L-3. (interpretation) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$132,642,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are you in agreement with the departmental estimates for the Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for making their appearance. Minister Tootoo, do you have any closing comments? Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the members for raising some very important issues and things that we will look at. I know housing is an issue that affects every single person living in Nunavut. So we're doing our best to be able to move forward with the limited resources that we have to try and do what we can to address as many of those issues as possible.

Also, I would like to thank again Alain. It's his first appearance here, so he's no longer a rookie for Committee of the Whole. So I would like to thank Alain. He's had a lot of work to do in a very short period of time since he started to get up to speed on things and he's done a very good job at that.

I also thank Lori as well as all of the other staff working next door and in our district offices who always go out of their way to try and make sure that we have the information that you guys are looking for.

I again thank the members for their comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

We have concluded with the Housing Corporation. We can now move on to the Department of Justice. Mr. Schell, if you can take this seat. Thank you.

### **Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Justice – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Schell): I would now like to ask Minister Peterson, responsible for the Department of Justice, to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the main estimates and business plan for the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice has been allocated a total operating budget of \$78,052,000, representing a \$2,050,000 increase, or 2.7 percent, over last year's budget. This increase consists of two significant items:

- An increase of \$1 million in the Law Enforcement Branch budget to fund the RCMP Stand-By Policy, and

- The 2010-11 impact of the Nunavut Employee Union collective bargaining contract.

Mr. Chairman, the largest portion of the Justice budget is for RCMP policing services.

- In order to address issues of public safety as well as officer safety, we are working to increase the number police officers in Nunavut.
- In the 2010-11 fiscal year, there will be an increase in the number of Inuktitut-speaking staff at the RCMP call centre.
- Training for special constables will begin this fall so that policing services provided are more responsive to the needs of all Nunavummiut.
- Increase the minimum duration of mandatory service by RCMP members from two years to four years.

Mr. Chairman, both court services and legal aid respond to the increased need of Nunavummiut for innovative and culturally appropriate legal and court services.

- In this fiscal year, we will streamline court efficiency through updated technology and staff training. We plan to introduce the *Family Support Orders Enforcement Act* in an effort to replace and improve upon the *Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act*.
- Through the Legal Services Board, Justice will continue to improve the

framework for the Court Worker program.

- The Department of Justice will assess the viability of alternatives to better address the needs of family law clients and assess the impact of changes in the number of criminal charges have on the delivery of criminal legal services.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Justice continues to encourage the recruitment, training, and advancement of Inuit in positions relating to corrections and community justice.

- In the spring of 2010, the Department of Justice will open the Women's Healing Facility in Iqaluit. This facility has been designed to better serve our female offenders and to alleviate some of the overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre.
- Complete the coordination, research, and development of new and updated operational policies which will include contingency plans for all workplaces. Corrections will also work with community justice in the development of community justice committee resources for the reintegration of offenders after incarceration.
- We also expect to be able to expand the role of community justice outreach workers in assisting victims of crime in addition to their role in the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, this is a brief outline of some of the initiatives the Department of Justice is working on as we move forward.

This concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Doug Garson, Acting Deputy Minister for the Department of Justice, and to my left is Rebekah Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Please proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the minister and his officials for being here as well.

I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the 2010-11 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Justice.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his officials. The minister was able to provide an update on his department's proposed expenditures for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Members noted that the Department of Justice is proposing to increase its budget for 2010-11 by \$2,050,000. This is an increase of approximately 2.7 percent from the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Approximately half of this increase is in the area of contract services for the Law Enforcement Branch. The remaining amounts are mainly in the area of compensation and benefits in the rest of the department's branches and in the budget for the new women's correctional centre in Iqaluit.

During the December 2009 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker tabled a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Mr. Chairman, this document indicates that out of all GN departments, the Department of Justice has the largest number of outstanding tabling requirements.

Members appreciate the recent tabling of the annual report required under the *Human Rights Act*. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the annual reports that are required under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, the *Legal Services Act*, the *Victims of Crime Act*, the *Liquor Act*, the *Labour*



*Standards Act*, and the *Legal Profession Act*.

The committee particularly looks forward to the tabling of the first annual report under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which is required to include information on “progress in addressing and preventing family abuse.” During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that a second, separate report on the evaluation of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* will also be ready for tabling during this session.

During the minister’s appearance, members raised the issue of difficulties resulting from the use of emergency protection orders under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Difficulties emerge when a removed person is the person who is the legal tenant of the home from where he or she is being removed.

While members recognize the need to ensure the safety of those people who successfully apply for an emergency protection order, members also recognize that problems arise when removed respondents have nowhere to go. Members were advised that the department is aware of this problem and that department officials are seeking solutions.

Mr. Chairman, members are aware that the annual budget of the Department of Health and Social Services has funds set aside for family violence services. The standing committee encourages the Department of Justice to work with the Department of Health and Social Services in areas of mutual concern,

such as family violence intervention.

During his appearance before the standing committee, the minister concurred with members on the importance of collaborating with other departments when it is beneficial to do so rather than allowing duplication of efforts by different departments.

The standing committee is pleased to note that ongoing efforts are being made to explore options for a domestic violence court in Nunavut. The department’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that “initial options reviewed by the Courts relating to a Domestic Violence Court in Nunavut identified a need to create a ‘Healthy Relationships Court’.” Members look forward to further updates on this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, committee members once again raised the ongoing issue of communication difficulties between the RCMP and the people whom they serve. The standing committee continues to be concerned that the lack of Inuit language capacity exacerbates communication difficulties. Members were pleased to note that the minister affirmed this is an important ongoing issue that needs to be addressed.

Members were also pleased to note that the department’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that initiatives are in place to “increase the number of Inuktitut speaking staff at the RCMP call centre.” Members look forward to further updates on the progress of these initiatives.

Members note that section 3 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that organizations “shall communicate with

the public in the Inuit Language when delivering” essential services, such as “emergency, rescue or similarly urgent services...” When in emergency situations, people communicate most effectively in their first language. Members are particularly concerned about the needs of elderly unilingual Inuit language speakers.

Members also raised the issue of multiple emergency numbers in Nunavut. Members recognize that in extreme situations, it is easier for all Nunavummiut to have one emergency phone number to remember for fire, ambulance, and police.

Mr. Chairman, the ongoing issue of bootlegging remains a concern. On December 2, 2009, the minister stated to the House that the “RCMP is very diligent in trying to apprehend bootleggers in the communities” and that 99 percent of the violence in Nunavut is “triggered by alcohol.” On December 4, 2009, the minister stated that “People should not have to live in fear or worry of bootleggers in their community.”

The standing committee once again refers to the report on policing services in Nunavut that was tabled on March 9, 2007. The report states that bootleggers “are perceived to be dangerous in many instances, and the fear of reprisal affects the likelihood of residents working with the police to bring bootleggers to court.” Police point out that the reluctance of witnesses to support investigations with statements and possibly court appearances makes the job of arresting and charging bootleggers difficult.

The standing committee encourages the minister and his department to work with

the RCMP to explore ways in which witnesses can be made to feel more comfortable in supporting investigations with statements and court appearances. It is noteworthy that similar efforts are underway in other jurisdictions. A recent *Nunatsiaq News* article reported that in Nunavik, “informants will be given a number instead of a name to keep the identities confidential, or they may choose to remain anonymous.” The standing committee encourages the department to share best practices with other jurisdictions facing the same challenges.

Mr. Chairman, the duration of RCMP officers’ postings in Nunavut communities has been an issue for the past several years. Members are pleased to note that RCMP officers will now be stationed in Nunavut for four years instead of two. During his appearance before the committee, the minister advised members of his intention to determine whether officers will be allowed to stay in one community longer than two years if they so desire. The standing committee recognizes the importance of enabling a connection between RCMP officers and the communities they serve.

Mr. Chairman, another important ongoing issue that was raised by committee members is the lack of Inuit representation in law enforcement. During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members noted that five community constables were scheduled to be recruited to start training in the fall of 2009. The minister indicated that only four recruits have been accepted into the training program. The minister also indicated that the

initial target of 32 Inuit special constables remains a long-term goal.

Another issue that was raised by committee members during the minister's appearance concerned the department's plan to recruit training candidates from all 25 communities for the Summer Student Program in 2009. Members note that a news report dated July 2, 2009 indicated that 21 students were participating in the student program under the title of "Nunavut Police Experience Program." The news report also stated that the program is offered to any youth over the age of 16.

The standing committee looks forward to further information concerning which communities were not able to have students participate in the program and why. Members recognize the importance of providing training opportunities for young Nunavummiut during the summer and encourage the department in its ongoing efforts to make sure that students from each community participate.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members raised the issue of providing another program to train new Inuit lawyers through the Akitsiraq Law School Model. The standing committee recognizes the success that the Akitsiraq Law School has had in previous years with the graduation of 11 students in 2005. The standing committee notes that while the 2010-11 Business Plan for Nunavut Arctic College refers to the Akitsiraq program, the 2010-11 Business Plan for the Department of Justice does not.

On February 1 of this year, a CBC news report indicated that a program that was

scheduled to start some time during this year has been postponed until 2011 due to "delays in commitments to core funding." The standing committee encourages the department to work with Nunavut Arctic College.

During his appearance before the standing committee, members raised the issue of strengthening the *Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act* in order to ensure that all support payments are collected on behalf of the intended recipients. The standing committee notes that the department's business plan indicates the name of this legislation will be changed to the *Family Support Orders Enforcement Act* through upcoming amendments to the Act.

Mr. Chairman, during his appearance before the standing committee, members noted that the department's business plan indicates that "Community Corrections has been working at establishing a 'stand-alone' probation service for Nunavut." The standing committee encourages the department in its efforts.

During his appearance before the standing committee, members were advised by the minister and his officials that the women's correctional facility in Iqaluit will be open and begin operating later this year. The standing committee looks forward to further updates on this facility and its initial operations.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee emphasizes the importance of achieving a greater understanding of the factors that cause alcohol abuse, crime, and suicide rates in Nunavut to be so high. Members believe that the more information that can be gathered on the

factors that lead to alcohol abuse, crime, and suicide, the more able Nunavummiut are to be critically aware of those factors.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. It's almost six o'clock. I move to report progress so that we can start fresh tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

I would like to thank the minister for showing up here. I guess we will be continuing with the minister, Mr. Garson, and Ms. Williams tomorrow. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Schell.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Schell:** 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:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): I would like unanimous consent of my colleagues to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. The member is seeking consent of this Assembly to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays and no one is crinkling their nose.

>> *Laughter*

You may proceed, Mr. Komoartok.

### **Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Sandy Akavak. He and his family have lived in my community for many years. He was an RCMP officer serving in our community, but he and his family have since moved back to their community. We still appreciate their services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome Sandy Akavak, who is from Kimmirut, to the House here. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Welcome to the Gallery again. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom with the Minister of Finance.

Orders of the Day for March 16:

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:** Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:48*

