



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 31

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Pages 1599 – 1664

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister of
Energy*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1599
Ministers' Statements	1599
Members' Statements	1602
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1606
Oral Questions	1606
Reports of Standing and Special Committees	1621
Tabling of Documents	1629
Notices of Motions	1630
First Reading of Bills	1631
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1632
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1663
Orders of the Day	1664

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 1599

B.

Ministers' Statements

123 – 3(2): Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation (Taptuna)..... 1599

124 – 3(2): Centennial Scholarship Recipients (Tapardjuk) 1600

125 – 3(2): National Social Work Month (Curley) 1600

126 – 3(2): Environmental Award of Merit from the Consulting Engineer of Alberta
(Tootoo) 1601

C.

Members' Statements

185 – 3(2): Improving Communications Services in Nunavut (Rumbolt) 1602

186 – 3(2): Paying Tribute to Jamesie Mike (Komoartok) 1603

187 – 3(2): Pangaggujiniq 2010 Pond Inlet to Clyde River (Arvaluk) 1604

188 – 3(2): Letters from Rankin Inlet Youth (Curley) 1604

189 – 3(2): More Letters from Rankin Inlet Youth (Kusugak) 1605

D.

Oral Questions

297 – 3(2): Safety Issue with Telehandlers (Schell)..... 1606

298 – 3(2): Purchase of More Telehandlers (Okalik)..... 1608

299 – 3(2): Doing Business with the Government of Nunavut (Aupaluktuq)..... 1610

300 – 3(2): Decentralized Positions in Pangnirtung (Komoartok) 1612

301 – 3(2): Length of Booms on New Telehandlers (Schell)..... 1613

302 – 3(2): Confidence of Advice from Staff (Okalik)	1615
303 – 3(2): Mould and Asbestos Awareness (Okalik)	1618
304 – 3(2): Air Quality at the Cape Dorset Health Centre (Schell).....	1619

E.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

003 – 3(2): Report on the Review of the 2009 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Financial Management Practices of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Follow-up on the 2005 Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Financial Management Practices of the Government of Nunavut (Arvaluk).....	1621
--	------

F.

Tabling of Documents

136 – 3(2): Canadian Cooperatives Association’s News Release Titled “United Nations General Assembly Proclaimed 2012 the International Year of the Cooperatives (Ningark)	1629
137 – 3(2): Nunavut Impact Review Board’s Public Notice for the Public Participation in the Environmental Review of the Kiggavik Uranium Mine Project (Aupaluktuq)	1630
138 – 3(2): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2008-2009 (Taptuna)	1630

G.

Motions

017 – 3(2): Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation – Notice (Okalik).....	1630
---	------

H.

Bills

Bill 15 – Legal Treatment of Apologies Act – First Reading	1631
--	------

Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – First Reading	1631
Bill 17 – Justice Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading	1631
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to the Education Act – First Reading	1631
Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – First Reading	1632
Bill 26 – Securities Transfer Act – First Reading	1632
Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act – First Reading	1632
Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Finance – Consideration in Committee.....	1633
Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee	1649

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 17, 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 Daniel Shewchuk, 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. Shewchuk to say the opening prayer. Mr. Shewchuk.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 123 – 3(2):
Nunavut Broadband Development
Corporation**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize in this House the accomplishments of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation and of its two founding staff members, David E. Smith and Lorraine Thomas.

As members are aware, on May 26, 2005, the Qiniq network was officially launched, which brought broadband Internet connections to every community in Nunavut. The launch was the result of more than three years of hard work by many different people, but I would like to take this time to point out specifically two individuals who were instrumental in getting Nunavut Broadband Development to where it is today, Dave Smith and Lorraine Thomas.

In 2003, Dave and Lorraine created the five-year business plan for Internet services in Nunavut that won the financial support of the federal government's "Infrastructures Phase 1" program. Their plan focused on private sector delivery with strong local involvement. Today, every Nunavut community has a trained community service provider. There are 21 community service provider companies in Nunavut, 18 of which are Inuit owned.

In 2008, Dave Smith and Lorraine Thomas worked tirelessly to ensure that a second business plan for broadband in Nunavut was prepared and funded. As members are aware, last year Infrastructure Canada and the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation signed a five-year contribution agreement which will result in an investment by the federal government and industry of up to \$43 million to support our community broadband networks.

Mr. Speaker, on March 18, 2010, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation formally launched its new and improved broadband services for Nunavut. At the same time, the

corporation acknowledged the contribution made by David E. Smith and Lorraine Thomas, both of whom have stepped down from their positions as president and managing director respectively.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I want to express my gratitude and admiration to Dave and Lorraine for the contribution they have made to Nunavut. Their work leaves a legacy in Nunavut that will support development in our communities for generations to come. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 124 – 3(2):
Centennial Scholarship Recipients**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate 18 Nunavummiut who have been awarded the Alberta Centennial Scholarship for high academic achievement in trades training. These individuals received marks of 80 percent or higher in their programs during the 2008-09 training year.

Mr. Speaker, this scholarship was set up to celebrate Alberta's 100th anniversary as part of Canada and is available to students across the country who are nominated by their province or territory. Each student receives a cheque for \$2,005 from our friends in Alberta.

Our scholarship recipients come from Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, Cambridge

Bay, and Sanikiluaq. I am excited to report that 25 out of our 26 communities have at least one registered apprentice and that trades training experiences good representation from all across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, this is the last year of the Alberta Centennial Scholarship program and will not be available to apprentices again. However, I am so pleased that such a high number of Nunavut's apprentices were successful during this last year and were able to take advantage of this initiative.

The profound importance of skilled trades and producing capable apprentices and journeypersons is crucial to *Tamapta's* commitment to improve education and training outcomes and to support community-based, sustainable economies. Please join me in congratulating the efforts of our apprentices and in wishing them continued success and achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 125 – 3(2):
National Social Work Month**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This month is National Social Work Month. It is a time to acknowledge the importance of social workers in Nunavut and recognize the significant difference that they make in the lives of so many Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Speaker, as set out in *Tamapta*, two of the government's areas of focus are

children and families and those at risk. Our social workers are engaged with the most at-risk people in Nunavut. Our social workers have the compassion and decision-making skills to help improve the well-being of those in need.

Mr. Speaker, our children are the future of Nunavut and working with families to ensure that our children grow up in healthy home environments is a big responsibility. However, social workers can't do it alone – it will take strong families, communities, and individuals working hand in hand with our social workers and other partners to ensure a healthy place for our children to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, social work can sometimes be a dangerous job and at times, our staff put their own safety at risk. Despite these dangers, they are devoted to providing a voice for our most vulnerable and marginalized people. Daily, our social workers are responding not only to individuals but to the larger social issues, such as poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, and health care through basic human rights.

Social work positions are often challenging to fill and once hired, challenging to retain. We currently have 46 social worker positions in Nunavut, 44 of which are filled and 12 of these are Inuit. Through programming at Nunavut Arctic College, this number continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and applaud the achievements of our social workers. Their frontline contribution to the lives and social well-being of Nunavutmiut is admirable and commendable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 126 – 3(2):
Environmental Award of Merit
from the Consulting Engineer of
Alberta**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. members, I rise today to inform the House about the showcase award presented by the Consulting Engineers of Alberta to Qulliq Energy Corporation and EBA Engineering Consultants for environmental remediation work conducted in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, QEC's environmental department, in partnership with EBA Engineering Consultants and with the involvement of the Hamlet of Baker Lake, has been executing soil and groundwater remediation over the past few years on lands affected by numerous inherited fuel spills.

The groundwater remediation process, through the use of a device called a Waterloo Emitter, was able to protect the hamlet's drinking water supply from multiple historic hydrocarbon spills. The soil remediation, completed through field trials of a process called chemical oxidization, was able to successfully remove hydrocarbons from the test soil over a period of time.

Mr. Speaker, this innovative remediation process in Baker Lake was able to identify for the first time two new technologies that can be effectively used

in the remediation of hydrocarbons within the Arctic. The project has also been entered into competition for a similar award at a national level with the Association of Consulting Engineers Canada. This award is to be announced in the near future.

The presentation of the showcase awards was held on February 5 in Calgary and an accompanying article will be published in the spring 2010 edition of the "Alberta Innovators," which is the magazine for the Consulting Engineers of Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, this is another example of how Qulliq Energy is working to improve their environmental footprint in Nunavut while also showcasing our innovations and achievements across the nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 185 – 3(2): Improving Communications Services in Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to encourage this government to provide more support for alternative communications services within our communities.

Mr. Speaker, search and rescue efforts require a significant level of funding and resources. Last year alone, 12 search and rescues involving aircraft were

conducted throughout Nunavut. The cost of just one of these searches is enormous and it is ultimately paid for by all of us, the taxpayers of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from the Minister of CGS that the cost for search and rescues for his department alone has reached approximately \$225,000 and this does not include the thousands of volunteer person hours that have accumulated as Nunavut residents do their part to help.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the government's investment in SPOT devices. However, I believe that more could be done to address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, Internet services are now available in all of Nunavut's communities. I believe that the technology is available for cell phone services to be delivered in all of our communities as well.

Mr. Speaker, providing this additional means of long-distance communication could go a long way towards reducing the need for search and rescues. By supporting and investing in local communications, our government could play a proactive role in reducing search and rescue costs.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some communities are looking into funding partnerships to get cell phone services up and running. This kind of initiative would have a lot more success if our government would actively provide assistance and support for development in this area.

I encourage this government to look into this issue and to give real consideration

to providing support to communities that wish to have a local cell phone service established. At the very least, it could reduce the cost of search and rescue efforts but at the very most, it would enable everybody to travel more safely and prevent the need for search and rescues in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 186 – 3(2):
Paying Tribute to Jamesie Mike**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to say "good day" to my community and wish a very happy birthday to Jonah Kilabuk, Meeka Kilabuk, and Kim Dialla. I wish them the best today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents in Pangnirtung, Jamesie Mike. Jamesie is a respected elder in my community. Since the 1970s, he has been volunteering his services as a radio messenger, monitoring high frequency and citizens' band radios for residents who are out on the land.

Before operating out of his home, Jamesie Mike was an HTO member in charge of short wave radio communications since the 1970s, where he now monitors CB and HF radios. When he started this work, Jamesie Mike noticed that when people out on the land try to communicate with people in the community, their calls would

often go unanswered. That is when he decided that he would answer all calls from people out on the land. He has been volunteering ever since.

Today, he buys his own communication equipment, such as HF and CB radios. He has set up a radio operating centre in his home so that he can relay information between people in the community and people out on the land.

Jamesie Mike has a lot of experience travelling out on the land and is very knowledgeable about the surrounding area, so he is able to pass on valuable knowledge to our younger generations.

My time has run out, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

As I was saying, Jamesie Mike has great knowledge of the land around Pangnirtung. He provides directions through two-way radio when people ask for assistance. He also has a little CB radio that he got as a gift from one of his grandchildren and he feels more in touch with the community since he has to stay at home now.

On behalf of the people of Pangnirtung, I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation for his volunteer

efforts over the last 30 years. I ask all members to join me in applauding the dedication and work of Jamesie Mike and wish him all the best in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Members' Statements. Member for Tununuk, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 187 – 3(2):
Pangaggujiniq 2010 Pond Inlet to
Clyde River**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to take this opportunity to announce that on April 19, a dog team race is planned to start off in Pond Inlet and finish in Clyde River. I am very pleased to say that the mushers are ready and that the people of Clyde River are also ready to receive them as they come in at the end of the race.

The main point I want to make is that while this event is a joyous occasion, it's also where young Inuit can gain experience as trailblazers on snowmobiles who carry supplies and dog food and meet the dog teams at each of the checkpoints. Dog teams from Repulse Bay, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Pond Inlet, and Arctic Bay all participate in the race. On occasion, we have had mushers from as far away as Iqaluit.

This is not just a celebration of our culture but also a learning experience. This race allows young Inuit to experience something different from their day-to-day lives and they are happier and better for it. This race reminds them of their Inuit culture. It

gives them the opportunity to maintain and care for the dogs, to help with the supplies, and to clean up after the teams have left their checkpoint.

I've had the good fortune to participate in these dog team races twice. I have been very impressed by the cleanliness and care of the young people to pick up garbage, no matter how small, at each campsite. They made sure that everything was perfectly pristine before they left. As you follow the trail, you will not see one bit of garbage at the campsite.

I am very pleased about this event and I would like to extend an open invitation to the Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in the dancing and feasting to celebrate its successful conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 188 – 3(2):
Letters from Rankin Inlet Youth**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement about a package of letters that I and Mr. Kusugak received recently. The letters were written by students of the high school in Rankin Inlet.

I would like to share some of excerpts in Inuktitut, three in particular. The young people out there are listening to what happens here and would like to be heard

by the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

A 16-year-old said that a drop-in centre is needed in Rankin Inlet where the youth can watch TV, do their work on a computer, and also have space to talk to someone about their feelings. If we had a drop-in centre here, it would keep young people out of trouble and away from drugs and alcohol.

A 17-year-old also said, Mr. Speaker, that we need a larger arena, a larger community hall, and a larger swimming pool so that more children can have the opportunity to swim. They also need a drop-in centre with a pool table and computers. If they only had these facilities, young people would go to them instead of turning to crime and mischief.

A 20-year-old in the group said that he is still in school. He mentioned the need for a movie theatre in Rankin Inlet or a place where the youth can hang out with their age group and not turn to crime and mischief.

I am very pleased to have received these letters and the fact that the youth feel they are able to voice their concerns to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 189 – 3(2): More Letters from Rankin Inlet Youth

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for Rankin North for bringing up the letters we received. We both received copies of these letters from quite a few students.

I would like to express my appreciation for the following students for writing about their concerns: Ernest Akerolik Jr, Sheena Panikalliagjuaq, Jordan Alikamiq, Miranda Aupilardjuk, Steve Sandy, Dana Tatty, Janine Gordon, Jon Ayaruak Bruce, Wendy Kappi, Iris Tatty, and, Jamie Airut.

Mr. Speaker, these young people wrote about their concerns and needs of their community. Some were already mentioned by Mr. Curley, but one of them wrote about his concern about unsightly graffiti on public buildings. Some also wrote about the need for recreational facilities, as Mr. Curley mentioned.

It makes me happy to have received letters from the young people of Rankin Inlet. I wish to thank them all for taking the time to voice their concerns and ideas on how we can make a healthier community of Rankin Inlet. I welcome their input and want to assure them that we will certainly discuss their issues here at the Legislative Assembly.

I can assure the young people who wrote to me that I will respond to every single one of them. Once I have drafted my personal replies, I will send them out. Thank you for writing your letters and I encourage you to keep writing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. If there are no more, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge one of my constituents. Earlier, a statement was made in honour of Jamesie Mike. I would like to recognize his daughter, who is following closely in her father's footsteps of community service and volunteer work here in the community, Meeka Mike. I would like to welcome her to the Gallery. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize an individual from my community who is in Iqaluit to attend and study in the NTEP program. Her name is Marianne Mike. She is in Iqaluit to take her studies and she's also a daughter-in-law of Jamesie Mike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no further recognitions, Item 6.

Before we proceed with Oral Questions, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all Members to treat each other with respect and courtesy during their questions and answers and to avoid unnecessary personal comments.

As members are aware, Question Period in our Legislative Assembly is noted for the relatively high degree of civility and courtesy. I would like us to maintain that reputation here in Nunavut.

Thank you. We will now proceed to Oral Questions. Oral Questions. There are none?

>>Laughter

(interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 297 – 3(2): Safety Issue with Telehandlers

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

Last fall, in November, he had stated in the House that he was sending a letter off to Workers' Compensation. It's in regard to the safety issue with New Holland telehandlers. I would like to ask the minister when he received a reply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that we did receive the green

light from the Workers' Compensation and Safety Commission on our standard operating procedures earlier this year, I believe it was in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He had originally ordered five New Holland telehandlers. I would like to know if any more New Holland telehandlers have been purchased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again if memory serves me correct, it's a similar question the member asked last year. I think I had indicated at the time that our initial request for quotations was for 22 units. Earlier in the fall, the corporation ordered another 12 units to go into communities where these structural insulated panel units were going where that type of equipment didn't exist already. I believe, at the time, I had indicated that we would be utilizing that same request for quotations for any further units that were ordered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the latest paper here, they have asked for another 12 telehandlers to put a request in for proposals. Can the minister tell me: are there 17 telehandlers purchased already and there are going to another 12? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. I know that I discussed the issue with him earlier, noting his particular interest in telehandlers.

Mr. Speaker, as I informed the member earlier, once the Housing Corporation ordered five units last year, last fall or last summer, we ordered another 12 units, again based on that original request for quotations. We were a little bit apprehensive and I again thank the member for raising the issue of running the units through the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. As I indicated, we did get the green light from them on that for the use of those units.

Mr. Speaker, in late December, when the corporation finalized our lots throughout the communities, one issue that wasn't thought of that came up as a result of finding out what lots that we were allocated in various municipalities, the issue came up that neither of the units that we would have looked at ordering and that we got prices on based on our request for quotations had a significant boom length required to be able to access the far side of a unit, from the front side to the back, to be able to lift the roof panels over.

We realized again in December that some of those lots would not be accessible from all four sides. As a result of that, Mr. Speaker, the proposal that the member talked about was put out for an additional 12 units and part of that, Mr. Speaker, will include the credit for

the 12 units that won't suit our purposes now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember bringing it up in the House more than once.

When I was referring to a Volkswagen and a Cadillac, I remember the hon. minister telling me, "Why buy a Cadillac when a Volkswagen will do?" He also told me the only difference between the CAT and the New Holland was number one, it had an arctic oil package and the other difference was, he said, the CAT boom had a 42-foot boom and the New Holland boom was 31 feet, which is 11 feet less.

As he had said, I indicated earlier, we are looking at one-storey buildings. I think the maximum need for the boom would be 20 feet to go out, unless someone would want to use it, if it was a little longer than that, to put a net across the river.

So my question is: why didn't he look at the situation as to what they needed before they ordered all of these units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The staff at the corporation tried to and always tries to anticipate everything that you can run into and unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, not everyone has a crystal ball and can determine what the circumstances that you're going to face are.

As I pointed out, Mr. Speaker, the Volkswagen that he referred to being, I would assume, the New Holland unit that he referred to and the Cadillac being the CAT unit that he referred to, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, neither of those, even if we would have bought the CAT one, would provide the length that we need of the boom.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, in order to get the roof panel over the peak and onto the backside, if we don't have access from all four sides of the building, neither of those units would have the sufficient length boom to be able to perform that function to get it over the peak and down onto the other side.

My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that a new request for proposals has been issued out there. Right now, the requirement is for, I believe, a 54-foot boom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 298 – 3(2): Purchase of More Telehandlers

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to follow up on my colleague's questions on the issue of telehandlers.

When this first came up, I asked the minister, "Are you sure that this farming equipment will work in our territory?" And I asked the minister, "Just try a few first. At least test it and see how it meets our expectations." And by the looks of it, he ordered 12 more without actually figuring out if they would work in our territory.

Can the minister explain what's going to happen to those other 12 that they supposedly ordered on top of the five? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just indicated earlier to my colleague from South Baffin, the request for proposals includes what the credit would be for those additional units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I can understand from the minister, they have already paid for the 12 that are out there already somewhere in the docks somewhere down south, the farming equipment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the delivery date for those 12 units is June 1, that they will be arriving. I don't remember if it's either the supplier or the docks, but as I had indicated, the request for proposals that's gone out there will require a credit amount for those units. So we're going to resell those units or get a credit for the value of those units against the new ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I can understand, the minister is saying that they're somehow going to be resold, the \$162,000 worth of farming equipment each, 12 of them. They will be sold and that money will be used to try and get new equipment that will actually work in the territory. Is that what I'm getting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to clarify. That piece of equipment, again the original New Holland telehandlers, was utilized in the demonstration project that was done by Illamar this fall. It did work. That unit, based on our standard operating procedures to perform the work, would have been able to perform the work had we been able to have access to all four sides of a unit on a lot. Again, as I indicated, once we finalized our lots and the location for the lots in late December, we realized that there were some lots that we weren't going to be able to access from all four sides.

Again, that posed a problem not only to the New Holland ones that we had but also to the CAT ones that we would have bought if we would have went with those products at that time as well. So either way, neither of these pieces of equipment that we looked at last year, based on the information that we knew at the time and what we know now, would not have been able to do that.

So yes, we are going to resell those equipment and we will get a credit

towards the new equipment for those 12 units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At \$162,000 each, that's about \$2 million worth of farming equipment. So we hope to resell that farming equipment and get the best deal that we can get. Hopefully they sell at the same price and get the actual equipment that would work in our territory.

So that's what I'm hearing from the minister when we pleaded with him, "Test it first before you actually buy too much so that we can make sure they work." So is that what I'm getting from the minister is that they hope to resell this equipment at the same price so that we don't lose out? Is that what I'm getting from the minister?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would just like to clarify that that unit did work and would have worked. In most cases, except for cases where, when we realized after that we got the lot allocations for the municipalities, we wouldn't be able to gain access to all four sides of the house, I just want to clarify that that piece of equipment would have worked in Nunavut and would work in most cases.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, part of the request for proposals will be for proponents to indicate a credit towards those 12 pieces of equipment. What the

value of that credit will be right now, I can't tell you but I would be more than happy, once it's all said and done, decided, and we finalize that, to inform the member of what it was, if he wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 299 – 3(2): Doing Business with the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

The minister's department has worked with ED&T to produce and has a useful guide for doing business with the Government of Nunavut. It provides important information for doing business and individuals who may be thinking of submitting bids on Government of Nunavut tenders and requests for proposals.

I think that it's also important for the government to also provide training and information workshops in the smaller communities, especially for new companies and entrepreneurs. Can the minister indicate whether these kinds of courses and workshops will be offered in the coming year in Baker Lake and other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for your question. This is a good question, "What types of training

and information workshops does our department provide?”

Unfortunately, I do not have that information on hand at this time. I will get that information and pass it along to the member. I know that we provide such training programs and workshops which are set up through various funding programs. I will look for that information and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. minister for that response as well as the comment. As we all know, experience builds success. I note from reviewing the government’s annual contracting reports that some companies are consistently successful in winning government contracts and tenders. However, I think that we also need to help first-time entrepreneurs get used to the complex system of government procurement.

My question to the hon. minister is: what kinds of assistance does the Government of Nunavut provide to new companies, especially those that are Inuit owned, to guide them through the process of bidding on government tenders and submitting proposals in response to requests for proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank the member for asking that question. It is true that some

entrepreneurs who are just starting out would like opportunities to put their bids in for RFPs and other tenders in general, whether it’s plumbing or administration.

Bidding on government contracts is a daunting, complex process, especially for those whose mother tongue is not English. We are always looking at ways on how to open up the bidding process for smaller and medium-sized businesses and individuals.

As I stated to the member, I will get the information on what kind of training and information workshops there are for entrepreneurs who want to bid on government contracts and the type of assistance we provide in filling out all of the necessary forms. I will look into that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the hon. minister for his excellent response.

It’s obvious that most of my constituents in Baker Lake, especially elders, who have their own businesses have little or no idea on how to go about filling out bidding forms without assistance. They purchase capital items out of their own pockets and also have to pay for the less expensive materials to conduct their businesses. Many, if not all, of them are always looking for assistance that they can get and bidding for government contracts is one of them.

These Inuit businesses would like their training and knowledge needs addressed

as their requests for assistance in these matters indicate. I am pleased to hear that the minister is listening to those concerns as his response indicates to me. He also stated that this matter is under review and that they are looking at ways to support these individuals more. I fully support the effort to assist individual businesses, and I look forward to conveying these issues and concerns to the minister.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for his commitment to conduct a review. This is more of a comment than a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I didn't hear a question, but I leave it at your discretion to respond, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Indeed, we will be conducting a review to determine what changes are needed, working closely with the community of Baker Lake and other communities in Nunavut. There are various stakeholders that we can enlist to assist in this venture.

We will work closely with everyone to resolve the challenges businesses face in this area. I am committed to working with these bodies and individuals as well as my colleagues who have to deal with these types of issues. It is only through teamwork that we can make some progress on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq... no? Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 300 – 3(2): Decentralized Positions in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to direct this question to the government leader, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

(interpretation) Back when it was first proposed to decentralize the Nunavut government functions, the idea was to decentralize these jobs to communities outside the capital. The government at the time determined which positions would go to decentralized communities. Pangnirtung was allocated 71 full-time positions and I believe that all of those positions were eventually moved there.

My question to the Premier is whether the number of jobs that were slated for Pangnirtung is still set at 71 positions. This number, of course, is based on prior promises made to us at the time of decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. I will look into the matter that he just raised to ascertain whether 71 positions is still the correct number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for her promise to look into the matter.

Be that as it may, if the review is to reduce or transfer out some of positions originally promised to Pangnirtung, we would like to be kept informed about it. We were promised a certain number of positions to be decentralized to our community. If the decentralized positions are to be reduced or transferred back to Iqaluit, we would like to see them replaced because we already have existing office space and staff housing.

Another matter that I would like to refer to is with respect to the number of positions that were never filled. We were informed during the standing committee review of the Department of Health and Social Services that the number of unfilled positions stands at 300. Thus, the three positions that have already been transferred back to Iqaluit from my community represent less than 1 percent of the unfilled positions.

I believe that it is possible to replace the positions that were recalled with others to avoid any loss of jobs in my community. I would like to request that this matter be reviewed, especially in light of the fact that our community was promised 71 positions that would be transferred. In my opinion, the government should not be recalling positions without consulting and negotiating with my community.

I urge the Premier to keep the promises that were made to our community. I fully expect that she will convey this information to her Cabinet prior to the completion of our current session. I want to thank her for promising to look into the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Premier of Nunavut, Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. I don't believe I heard a question. I'll get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 301 – 3(2): Length of Booms on New Telehandlers

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Hon. Minister of Housing.

I'm going back to June 9 in Oral Questions here, where I asked him a question and he responded to me about these telehandlers. "Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation, in looking at what we needed to deliver this year, is doing five different types of building that are coming up on sealift for different building types and one of them is the two-storey townhouse. We had determined and had the approval from CMHC that these were allowable expenses under the trust program," to purchase these telehandlers.

Mr. Speaker, if it's a two-storey townhouse, that's up to 20-something feet, then you got to go to the roof. Even if you get all of the way around the building, how can the minister say that the 30-foot boom would be large enough for it? That's from the ground up. If you're reaching out with a 30-foot boom, the maximum you are going to get is 20 feet. So I just don't understand.

Who did the analyzing on these units to come and say that if you can get around this two-storey building, you can reach the top of the roof? I don't think it's possible. If the minister could maybe answer that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those units that were being done already, the lots that we got finalized for the units for this coming year that the SIP panel units are going on is where the problem was identified.

As I had indicated, Mr. Speaker, those panels, I believe they're about 400 lbs each and in order to set them in place, you need access to be able the lift of panel and get it over the peak of the unit where you don't have access from all four sides. That's something that we wouldn't have even with either pieces of these equipment.

With the townhouses and the other units, he said they just go straight up and there are sheets of plywood that you take off, you're not lifting a whole panel over to the other side, which is the difference. Hopefully that clarifies it for the member.

With the two-storey building, you're just putting the stuff up to the edge of the roof and taking it off, if required, but with the structural insulated panel units, those panels actually have a requirement, if you don't have access from the far side, to be able to lift the entire panel over to the far side of the unit over the peak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the housing minister's information, these units haven't been built yet, especially not in Cape Dorset, and you have a bit of a crawl space.

Even to get to the bottom of a two-storey townhouse, you need approximately 25 feet and this boom's maximum, if you can get right up close, is going to be around 20 to 22 feet because it's measured from the back of the boom, not from the front. You can't even lift to the edge of the roof in order to do it, so I would like to know how they came up and determined it.

This is what he said, one of the reasons they're buying these is for the two-storey townhouses. So I would like him to explain to me how he could even lift to the bottom of that roof with the New Holland telehandler. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't profess to be the expert or have the knowledge that the member does on this type of equipment. I was assured by my staff that those units would be able to perform those duties. I will commit to the member to get the inch-by-inch measurements as to how they came up with those conclusions and provide it to him if the member so wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to these telehandlers, he was trying to tell me that he didn't get a ruling from Workers' Compensation until February some time and yet, he ordered 12 new ones in the fall. Can he explain to me why he would have ordered 12 new ones before he got a ruling from Workers' Compensation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was the final ruling that we got from them. There was an ongoing dialogue with them throughout the whole process. They didn't anticipate any problems, but it takes time for it to go through the 'final and get formalized' process. We knew long before December when we got our final ruling from them that they would be able to conform to the standard operating procedures that we provided for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just find it hard to believe that you would go ahead and order 12 units before you got the final okay from Workers' Compensation. I think it's very irresponsible doing that and as we find out now, I realize they came with the right ruling.

But now, we've got 12 units that we have to take and trade. I can just about guarantee you that they're not going to get the full return on the trade-in. Who's going to take those units and trade? I realize that they're probably great out on

the farm for stacking hay and stuff, but I don't think they're all that great in a construction site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. That was just a comment, but I'll let the minister have more say on that. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I pointed out earlier, based on the demonstration that was held at our marshalling this summer, getting the units done, and based on standard operating procedures, four of these units could have done the job.

I just want to clarify that to the member, saying that this piece of unit that won't do the job that was outlined for them to do, like I said, Mr. Speaker, we never found out until late December the lots that we had to work with and it was only then that that was realized where we wouldn't have access from all four sides when that issue came up. That happened in late December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 302 – 3(2): Confidence of Advice from Staff

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to follow up on my colleague's questioning on this issue. From what I understand, the minister relied on his staff that this equipment would actually work in the territory. How can we be confident in the future when he rests his

confidence on his staff on future equipment?

As we are stuck with \$2 million worth of farming equipment today, what else are we going to be stuck with in the future? How can we be assured by this minister that his judgement on his staff and himself, that we can rely on it as a territory for future purchases? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the same way that my hon. colleague counted on his staff over the years to give him advice and each of us as ministers and colleagues count on staff to provide us with advice and question it, I can assure the member that because this was a hot issue that was raised, I made sure that we looked at everything that we could think of to try and ensure that all bases were covered.

Like I said, Mr. Speaker, you don't have a crystal ball and you are never ever going to anticipate every little thing that comes along, even legislation that this Assembly has passed over the years. We think at the time that we thought of everything, but there's always something that comes up that gets overlooked. You have to trust, based on the information that you know at the time and everything that you can try and anticipate, that you're making the best decision possible.

As all members know, you cannot always think of every single thing that comes along. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik: I remember asking the minister, so I'm asking my colleague, that's the minister: why was there no testing taken place in our territory before such a huge commitment was made of our government? I asked back then, "Can you at least make sure it works in our territory?"

And we know today that we're stuck with \$2 million worth of farming equipment. How can we be assured that we will get our money back at this point? So I'm asking the minister: what will happen if we can't sell that farming equipment for \$2 million? What will happen then? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, that is a hypothetical question, "What would happen if..." I don't know. If I had that crystal ball, I would be able to tell the member, but I don't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Since we now know that the farming equipment can't work in the territory, I understand there are at least five that are within the communities in Nunavut. If they don't work or can't perform the job,

what are those communities going to do with the five pieces of farming equipment that they have now? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was one of the first questions I asked my staff too. As I indicated, after checking out the lots that we have been allocated in the five communities that have these pieces of equipment right now, that might be an issue. They will be able to perform the duties that are required or what's needed of them because they will have access from all four sides of the unit.

Again I want to point out that that piece of equipment will work and is going to be working in Nunavut, particularly in those five communities that they're in already. They won't have a problem doing what they need to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am a bit taken aback by how we hope that we can sell this \$2 million worth of farming equipment. I can't believe that we own farming equipment today.

We hope that whoever gets this contract can get the best deal possible for all of us so that we can get our money back and get equipment that will actually work in our territory. Can the minister please explain that he won't do this again in the future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to reiterate that the five communities that those pieces of equipment, the New Holland telehandlers, are in will work and will do the job.

It's just in a few of the communities where we found out in late December that we wouldn't have where our lots were and the slope, or the grade, or whatever of the lots, that we wouldn't be able to have access from all four sides. Regardless of whether it was the New Holland or the CAT equipment that was quoted on, neither of those pieces of equipment foresaw taking a situation like this into account.

As I indicated and as Mr. Schell pointed out, I believe the boom length on the CAT was just over 40 feet. With this new request for proposals, we figured out and calculated that we're going to need I believe it's a 54-foot boom length. So it's a big difference in equipment.

Like I said, you cannot foresee every circumstance. We took into account or into consideration that we would be able to have access from all four sides of the unit. The way the layout was, if the lot would have been turned the other way, then the unit would have been situated the other way on the lot and there wouldn't have been a problem either.

It's just when you're going from front to back, if it's side to side, then it's not a problem. It's just in a few circumstances in the lots where we found out we couldn't and the way the house was

going to be sitting on it, we wouldn't be able to access the back of the house to be able to get the roof panels and the ceiling panels up. It would have to be done from the front.

So that's just the circumstances and challenges that we faced and we found, and we looked and found a way to overcome it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 303 – 3(2): Mould and Asbestos Awareness

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Curley.

(interpretation) Next week, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission will be holding free safety courses in Iqaluit on mould and asbestos awareness for all and any interested workers. I wish to ask the minister if the courses will include mould and asbestos awareness and whether all affected workers will have to take the course individually.

Can the minister assure me today that all government departments will send at least one representative to these important courses being held next week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the member for posing that important question. This is a first for our government and we will have to gather the necessary information on this issue.

I know that all industries, especially construction companies, are required to have safety committees. I will look forward to hearing from the safety committee members attending the workshops.

Mr. Speaker, I have to look into this first. Once I have this information, I'll make sure to give it back to the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley, we would like clarification. (interpretation ends) Are you saying you're taking the question as notice or are you waiting for more information? Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): I stated that I will look into the issue. I thought I was clear. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge the minister to ensure that all government departments send at least one representative to these workshops and to direct all safety committee members to attend these courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand where the member is coming from. I will

make sure that these representatives attend the courses. The President of the WSCC was here yesterday and I'm sure they were in session today. I still haven't received the official invitation. Once I do receive that information, I will provide more details. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 304 – 3(2): Air Quality at the Cape Dorset Health Centre

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I raised the issue of the aging status of the Cape Dorset Health Centre and specifically, the ventilation problem faced by staff and clients last week in this House. I have also copied the minister on correspondence on the same issue. I trust the minister has had time to look into the situation and will be able to answer my questions.

Can the minister confirm to this House whether he or his officials are aware of the ventilation programs at the Cape Dorset Community Health Centre?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the question is whether our department is aware of the ventilation problems. Yes, we are aware of the ventilation problems. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update this House on what steps are taken to address concerns about air quality or the presence of potentially harmful fumes in Nunavut's health facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have written a letter to Mr. Schell and a copy of that letter was also sent to WSCC. They will be responding to that letter.

What I can say is that although the building in question is quite old, the problem has nothing to do with the building itself. The issue has to do with the lab or x-ray machine there. They installed the plumbing system, which is the cause of the fumes. We're working together with CGS to have the parts replaced as soon as possible. I have also been told that the machine is back in service now.

I can assure the member that it is not the building that was the cause of the fumes but the medical equipment within it. I can tell the member that the WSCC is also investigating the matter. In fact, I was told yesterday that the WSCC will be writing a letter to the member shortly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted last week, I myself experienced

the poor air quality and atmosphere at the Cape Dorset Health Centre when I visited the building recently. I recognize that our dedicated health staff are focused on delivering quality health services as a priority and cannot simply close up shop when conditions become uncomfortable.

Can the minister advise this House on what measures are in place to ensure the continued delivery of services if the conditions in a government facility, such as a health centre, makes it unsafe to work inside the building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All government departments support and recognize that all GN staff must have a safe and secure place to do their work and not be exposed unnecessarily to hazardous conditions. It is the law and we don't force staff to work if they would be put in a hazardous or dangerous situation in any way. We work closely with CGS whenever these types of issues arise.

There is not much we can do about aging facilities, but we make sure that our health workers are in a safe work environment. I can assure the member that we won't allow our staff to work in unsafe conditions and that we work closely with our partners at CGS to identify and fix any problems that require immediate attention. Our first priority is to make sure that our staff have the safest work environment possible. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the current capital plan, there are no future plans for a replacement health centre for the community of Cape Dorset. I have actively encouraged the government to bring this project forward in the capital plan.

Can the minister update this House on what efforts he has made to bring the Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement project forward in the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are fully aware that the facility in Cape Dorset is one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut. We are working with CGS on it. Officials at CGS have produced a report on the current state of our buildings and infrastructure.

I don't know if and when these capital projects will be included in the five-year plans, but I will discuss this with my Cabinet colleagues. I am hoping that we will have a much clearer idea in the fall. We have a lot of priority items to tackle, but I believe three communities ahead of Cape Dorset are currently being considered for capital projects.

Once the Cape Dorset Community Health Centre gets into the five-year capital plan, I will make sure that the member is notified. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation) The Budget Address has been taken out of the Order Paper. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 003 – 3(2): Report on the Review of the 2009 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Financial Management Practices of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Follow-up on the 2005 Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Financial Management Practices of the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'm sorry, I was about to go to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2009 reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, two reports of the Auditor General of Canada were tabled in the House on April 1, 2009. The first of these concerned the financial management practices of the

Department of Health and Social Services. The second report was a follow-up to the Auditor General's 2005 report to the Legislative Assembly on the financial management practices of the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 1999, every report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly has been referred to a standing committee for review. Witnesses from appropriate Government of Nunavut departments, Crown corporations and agencies have been invited to appear in public to account for their responses to the Auditor General's recommendations and the concerns of MLAs.

The standing committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's reports from September 29 to 30, 2009. These hearings were open to the public and news media to observe and were broadcast on local cable television. Witnesses from the Office of the Auditor General, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Health and Social Services appeared before the standing committee. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearings were subsequently posted to the Legislative Assembly's website in both Inuktitut and English.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee wishes to publicly thank the Auditor General for having acted on the motion that was passed by the Legislative Assembly on March 29, 2007. This motion requested the Auditor General to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the financial management practices of the Department of Health and Social Services.

I would note that this is not the first time that an audit of this nature has been undertaken. In 1991-92, the Office of the Auditor General undertook a comprehensive audit of the territorial Department of Health at the request of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. It is worth recalling that the first chapter in the Auditor General's 1992 report commented that:

“The topic of health in the Northwest Territories is contentious, as demands for more services run into the realities of fiscal restraint ... in particular, we comment on the difficulty in estimating costs, requiring regular requests for Supplementary Estimates, the continuing issue of out-of-territories patient treatment, and unpredictable and hard-to-control medical travel costs.”

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's recent hearings took place 17 years after these words were written by Ms. Fraser's predecessor.

I would like to take a moment to list some of the items that were brought forward by the Department of Health and Social Services for approval by the Legislative Assembly in November of last year on the occasion of its consideration of the government's first operations and maintenance supplementary appropriation request for the 2009-2010 fiscal year:

- \$5,148,000 for the “increased cost of medical travel”;
- \$1,088,000 for “increases to contract services provided for lab services”;

- \$1,071,000 for the “increased cost of providing physicians services”;
- \$2,918,000 for residential care services “due to an increase in the number of clients requiring services, the complexity of the care and the increased cost of services”;
- \$2,566,000 for the “increased cost of providing out-of-territory physicians”;
- \$1,377,000 to “cover the additional expenses for out-of-territory hospital services”; and
- \$540,000 for the “Extended Health Benefits Program, due to both price and volume changes which have led to increased costs to the program.”

Mr. Speaker, the items that I just listed added up to over \$14 million in unplanned spending by the department. Since the introduction of the Government of Nunavut's first budget in 1999, almost 30 supplementary appropriation bills have been introduced in the Legislative Assembly containing requests for approval for health related expenditures.

(Ambulance siren blaring) I hope nobody is hurt.

Some of these items have constituted over-expenditures that violate the government's *Financial Administration Act*. This pattern of over-expenditure has been a cause for significant concern for Members of the Legislative Assembly for many years. By the time that the Legislative Assembly considers the department's requests for supplementary

funding, the money has often already been spent.

For obvious reasons, Members of the Legislative Assembly would never vote to reject a request to cover the costs of medical evacuations that may have already taken place. The nature of the department's supplementary spending requests are such that it is almost inevitable that they will be approved given that they frequently deal with matters of sickness and health, life and death.

In the long term, this is not an acceptable situation with respect to other fundamental values and concerns, including sound financial management and accountability. Departmental managers can fall into the habit of poor financial planning, knowing that the Legislative Assembly will have little practical choice other than to rubber-stamp the department's requests.

Indeed, it is particularly troubling to note that during her testimony before the standing committee, the Auditor General stated that:

“One difference I would note is that we seem to have said in 1992 that the department returned to get authority for more funds. What we are finding in our report on Nunavut is, in fact, funds are being spent without being authorized in advance, which is, as we all know in our system, a very serious matter that the legislature should be approving those funds before they are being spent, which I think is again an indication that this department doesn't have really good financial information.”

I would, however, comment that the department's requests for approval for supplementary funding for its operations are, in many respects, a symptom of its problems, not the cause.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services faces a number of ongoing and acute challenges, including high staff turnover, difficulties in filling indeterminate professional positions for nurses and doctors, and unforeseeable health situations, such as outbreaks of communicable diseases, which often lead to costly medical evacuations.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of medical travel can be viewed as one of the most critical challenges facing the Department of Health and Social Services. In recognition of this unavoidable aspect of providing services to northerners, the federal government has, for the past five years, contributed over \$10 million annually for medical travel as part of the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative.

I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to all Members of this House for their recent and unanimous support of the motion that was passed on December 4, 2009. This motion called on the Government of Canada to renew the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative, including the Territorial Health Access Fund and the Territorial Medical Travel Fund.

The recent federal budget temporarily extended this funding by two years to “consolidate the progress made in reducing the reliance on outside health care systems and medical travel.” While it is clear that Ottawa heard our call, it is also clear that the cost pressures on our

health care system have not been resolved.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report made a number of important observations and recommendations concerning such issues as the department's budget planning, monitoring, information collection procedures, and transaction processing. The report also discussed the steps that have been taken to address these issues with respect to such matters as working relationship between the Department of Finance and the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Auditor General's report contained seven specific recommendations. The standing committee concurs with all of them, as did the government in its responses to the report. These recommendations concerned such essential areas as strategic planning, budget management, payment processing, and collections.

The standing committee notes that that the Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with the Department of Finance, has made a number of significant efforts to improve financial management procedures and processes. For example, members of the standing committee were pleased to note that witnesses indicated that a number of problems with respect to processing payments to suppliers have been corrected or significantly improved.

Mr. Speaker, during her appearance before the standing committee, the Auditor General made an important observation when she stated that:

“On the question of costs increasing, I think that's going to be a reality going forward with health costs. I think most people would predict that health costs are going to continue to rise...”

The standing committee fully recognizes that this is an issue facing all jurisdictions in the country. Nonetheless, the fact that an issue is national in scope must not be used as a justification for inaction or an excuse for poor management.

Departmental witnesses also noted that growth factors within our population are significant. For example, testimony to the standing committee during its hearings indicated that health services usage grew at a rate of approximately 7.7 percent in 2007-08.

As recently as last week, testimony provided by departmental witnesses to the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of the department's proposed 2010-11 main estimates noted that the department's costs are being driven up by increases in referrals to southern facilities. Proposed budgets for the Department of Health and Services must explicitly take these types of factors into account if they are to be realistic.

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee's review of the Auditor General's report. Accordingly, the standing committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services address the following five critical areas for action:

1. The importance of developing realistic plans that are appropriately supported by relevant documentation, analyses of expenditure trends and projections, and which include mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress towards financial targets or forecasts. This applies to capital plans, work plans, and budget plans throughout all divisions of the department. Members recommend that the Department of Health and Social Services works towards strengthening its planning processes.
2. The importance of setting short and long-term goals within a comprehensive and well-defined model for the delivery of health services across Nunavut that is supported by a strategic plan. At the service delivery level, the standing committee also stresses the importance of providing clear guidance and support to managers who have obligations to develop plans and allocate resources to meet the stated objectives of the department. The high rate of staff turnover adversely affects corporate memory and contributes to the lack of awareness of departmental priorities in this area. Greater efforts should be made to orientate and direct new managers. Although other human resources issues also have an impact on budgets and expenditures, the department has devoted considerable effort to addressing these situations, such as the development of its Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Health service delivery models should take these types of challenges into account.
3. The importance of undertaking realistic budget development exercises and producing realistic, timely, and accurate variance reports. According to the government's own employment statistics, the department had almost 300 vacancies as of September 30, 2009. The department has a total of approximately 990 positions. The department must address the practice of budgeting as though all of its positions were actually filled, only to reallocate salary dollars at a later point in the fiscal year to other areas, such as expenses for consultants and contractors to fulfill the functions of the vacant positions. Budget adjustments of this nature should be made during the planning process instead of at a time when spending is well underway. The lack of realistic expenditure targets leads to unrealistic expenditures, which then exceed approved amounts. The department's unacceptable practice of spending money that has not been approved by the Legislative Assembly must end.
4. The importance of collecting accurate and detailed information for the purposes of billing, payment collection, and trend analysis. Placing emphasis on compiling accurate and adequate levels of detail that can be used to complete transactions in a timely manner is important. Although the department has initiated improvements in this area, such as the development of training programs and procedures manuals, high staff turnover requires constant attention to this issue. In addition, the department's new procedures manuals could be further

improved to provide stronger guidance for managers in situations where significant variance has been noted or in how to address specific problems.

5. The importance of providing ongoing, formal reports to the Legislative Assembly on what specific actions are being taken to improve the financial management practices of the department and an accounting of how their effectiveness is being measured. The standing committee recommends that the next report on the status of the department's action plan be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first day of the fall 2010 sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude the first part of the standing committee's report by noting that the Legislative Assembly recently considered the proposed 2010-11 main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. Although Members of the Legislative Assembly continue to have serious questions as to whether the department's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year is realistic, the improved efforts on the part of departmental witnesses to be frank and forthcoming with members is welcomed.

Given the ongoing pressures facing the department and the uncertainty of future levels of federal support in respect to its fiduciary obligations to the North, it is more important than ever that the department's financial management practices be strengthened.

I will now turn over to the delivery of the report to my colleague and co-chair,

Mr. Schell. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will now turn to the standing committee's review of the Auditor General's follow-up report on her 2005 report to the Legislative Assembly on the financial management practices of the Government of Nunavut.

The standing committee applauds the Auditor General for having undertaken this important follow-up work as it allowed for Members of the Legislative Assembly to measure the government's progress in addressing the concerns and recommendations that were made in her 2005 report. I would like to take this opportunity to express the committee's enthusiasm for reviewing future reports of this nature, including, for example, a follow-up report on the status of the government's actions to address the recommendations contained in the Auditor General's 2007 report on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The standing committee noted with considerable concern that the Auditor General's key finding in her follow-up report was that:

"The Government of Nunavut has made unsatisfactory progress since 2005 toward strengthening its financial management and controls. Despite the Government's efforts at seeking qualified staff, initiating the update of financial directives, and engaging the services of consultants, we found little improvement in overall financial management.

Departments are still spending money before the Legislative Assembly has approved the spending.”

The standing committee’s hearings provided the government with the opportunity to account for its actions to date in addressing the Auditor General’s concerns and recommendations. It is noteworthy that the Department of Finance’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that the government’s action plan to respond to the Auditor General’s report was “proposed, completed and then discussed at the Standing Committee in the fall of 2009. This will be implemented during the next three fiscal years.”

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee will hold the government accountable for its progress in this area. A basic measure of progress will be whether or not the government is able to improve its compliance with its own rules. For example, the Auditor General’s report noted that:

“Overall we found that, on average, 19 percent of the transactions we tested contained authority violations.”

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General’s report contained five specific recommendations. The standing committee concurs with all of them, as did the government in its responses to the report.

I would, however, raise one cautionary note with respect to the Auditor General’s recommendation that the government should “continue contracting outside parties to perform

the less routine, technical functions, such as the preparation of the financial statements, until qualified resources are in place.”

Although the standing committee does recognize that the government faces an acute shortage of accountants and other qualified financial professionals, it is important to be mindful that members have raised serious concerns with respect to the government’s use of consultants and contractors.

The standing committee’s position with respect to this specific recommendation of the Auditor General should in no way be interpreted by the government as constituting an endorsement of its record with respect to engaging consultants and contractors, especially in such areas as policy development.

Mr. Speaker, a key observation in the Auditor General’s report was that:

“In our view, the underlying cause of the Government’s lack of progress on our previous recommendations is its limited human resource capacity. Simply put, there are not enough qualified financial staff to properly carry out basic financial functions.”

The standing committee’s hearings provided witnesses from the Government of Nunavut with the opportunity to account for their efforts to address human resources capacity issues.

I would also note that the Department of Finance’s proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that two of its goals for the 2010-11 fiscal year are to “promote training and development across all financial groups in the GN, including the

administrative, technical and professional levels” and to “establish and implement a professional training regime to enhance the financial expertise of the territory at all levels.”

The hearings also provided a valuable opportunity to engage in a broader dialogue with respect to such issues as the importance of clearly defining and distinguishing between the concepts of education and training. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee applauds the cooperation that is being undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Finance to undertake staff secondments. This is a worthy initiative.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee looks forward to considering the Auditor General’s 2010 Report to the Legislative Assembly on Human Resources Capacity in the Government of Nunavut. I am confident that these hearings will provide members with the opportunity to explore these issues in detail and I anticipate that the standing committee will present detailed recommendations concerning human resources capacity and development issues following its hearings.

The standing committee has also noted that the government announced on March 11, 2010 that the position of Deputy Minister of Human Resources will “be filled through a competitive executive search process over the coming months.”

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee’s review of the Auditor

General’s report. Accordingly, the standing committee recommends that the Department of Finance address the following five critical areas for action:

1. The importance of providing ongoing, formal reports to the Legislative Assembly on what specific actions are being taken to improve the financial management practices of the government and an accounting of how their effectiveness is being measured. The standing committee recommends that the next report on the status of its action plan be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first day of the fall 2010 sitting of the House. The standing committee further recommends that the report account for what actions the government has taken in respect to such initiatives as the use of collections agencies to collect monies owing to the government, including those in relation to loans issued by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The standing committee further recommends that the report provide an accounting of the government’s actual expenditures, actions, and results to date in relation to the \$23 million that the 2007 federal budget announced would be provided to the Government of Nunavut to “strengthen its financial management practices and systems.”
2. The importance of ensuring that the Public Agencies Council issues and enforces direction to Crown corporations and agencies to provide their annual corporate plans for tabling in the Legislative Assembly at the same time that the government’s main estimates are

introduced. This direction is particularly required in the case of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, and the Nunavut Development Corporation. The standing committee notes that the plans for Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation are presently included as part of the government's annual business plan document.

3. The importance of ensuring that the Public Agencies Council issues and enforces direction to all Crown corporations and agencies to provide annual reports on their procurement, contracting and leasing activities for tabling in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee notes that on September 18, 2008, the Government of Nunavut's response to a report by a committee of the previous Legislative Assembly was tabled in the House. This document indicated that Crown corporations would be directed to "provide information for tabling in the Legislative Assembly on their procurement, contracting and leasing activities." However, the government has failed to act on this commitment.
4. The importance of ensuring that Memorandums of Understanding with all Crown corporations and agencies regarding governance, roles, and responsibilities are tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first day of the fall 2010 sitting of the House.
5. The importance of ensuring that the government fully complies with the provisions of Financial

Administration Manual Directive 302, which requires the Chairperson of the Financial Management Board to provide the standing committee, on a quarterly basis, with a report, by department, that indicates "all capital adjustments made in that quarter." To date, these reports have not been provided on a regular basis and it is important that the government comply with its own rules.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by noting that the standing committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), formally requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report in 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. The report is received. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningark.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 136 – 3(2):

Canadian Cooperatives Association's News Release Titled "United Nations General Assembly Proclaimed 2012 the International Year of the Cooperatives"

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the

Canadian Co-operatives Association's news release titled, "United Nations General Assembly proclaims 2012 the International Year of the Co-operatives."

Yesterday, in the House, I made a Member's Statement on the importance that co-operatives have on a community's ability to become self-reliant and how they not only improve the economy but also the social wellness of a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Tabled Document 137 – 3(2): Nunavut Impact Review Board's Public Notice for the Public Participation in the Environmental Review of the Kiggavik Uranium Mine Project

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's public notice for the public participation on the environmental review of the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine near my home community of Baker Lake.

I encourage my constituents who may be interested in participating in the environmental review of the Kiggavik uranium mine to contact the Nunavut Impact Review Board no later than Monday, April 12, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 138 – 3(2):
Transportation of Dangerous
Goods Annual Report 2008-2009**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2008-09. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 017 – 3(2): Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation – Notice

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Friday, March 19, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununig, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Executive Council of Nunavut, pursuant to section 47 of the *Nunavut Act*, advise the Commissioner of Nunavut to request the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the financial, billing, contracting, procurement, leasing, and human resources management practices of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and report therein to the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the audit also examine the extent to which the Qulliq Energy Corporation has or has not addressed the recommendations contained in the 2004 Report of the

Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 15 – Legal Treatment of Apologies Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 15, *Legal Treatment of Apologies Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 15 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The

motion is carried. Bill 16 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

Bill 17 – Justice Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 17, *Justice Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 17 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Bill 20 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to the Education Act – First Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, 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. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 20 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2010 – First
Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 25, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 25 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 26 – Securities Transfer Act –
First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *Securities Transfer Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 26 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Curley.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend*

the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 27 has received first reading.

(interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 21, and 22 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:33 and
Committee resumed at 16:00*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 14, Bill 21, and Bill 22. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like 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 the Department of Finance, followed by the Department of

Economic Development and Transportation. If time permits, we will proceed to the review of the Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement to continue with the main estimates for Department of Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that Mr. Peterson and his staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-arms, if you would escort the witnesses in, please.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. For the record, Minister Peterson, introduce your witness.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witness is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I understand that today is the Deputy Minister of Finance's birthday. Happy birthday, Peter Ma.

>>Applause

Yesterday, we closed up the day by having comments from the minister and

the chair of the committee. I would like to ask members at this time if anybody has any general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mine is a very short, quick general comment and I would like to ask the minister a quick question.

As I noted in my opening comments yesterday, the department's proposed business plan indicates that one of the priorities for 2011-12 is to "Improve forecasting and budgeting. Consideration will also be given to consolidation of the Main Estimates and Capital" expenditure. I saw that in your business plan, but you did not mention it in your opening comments nor is it mentioned anywhere else.

Can the minister clarify whether the government plans to introduce the government's annual main estimates and capital estimates at the same time during the annual budget cycle and if so, why? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. The answer is no. What I think about these things is good planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then you will be removing that from your business plan? I don't know why you are not solid about this but you sort of quietly mentioned it in

your business plan that's what you were thinking. Will you completely remove that then? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Mr. Chairman, I don't think we will be removing it, but it's just something that we're considering. It's planning; it doesn't mean we're actually going to implement it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is very quick to the hon. minister or the deputy minister. In the opening comments, I believe that it might be the third last paragraph. Forgive me; I don't have a copy of the opening comments. But looking at the *Hansard*, it's noted that there is a reduction of about \$200,000 in contract services. What specifically would that be? I just want to ask that for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. Mr. Chairman, in the past, we had a lot of contracts related to strengthening financial management. They're starting to wind down and thus the reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no other names. We will

now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page C-4. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,227,000. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page C-2 under your priorities for 2010-11, it talks about promoting "training and development across all financial groups in the GN including the administrative, technical and professional levels." I was wondering if the minister could expand on that in terms of how and what type of training will be done. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I'm just finding the right spot here.

The plan under that is we're going to hire a consultant to finalize a work plan for training and development in 2010-11. We're going to standardize the position descriptions and pay ratings, and then we're hoping to mentor three interns in financial positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you guys are actually going to hire a consultant to tell you what training needs to be done in the department. Thanks.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is to hire a consultant who is an expert in the implementation of the plan. As you can appreciate, we're mostly accountants and finance people, we're not human resources people, so we need that expertise and that will expedite the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it's for the mentoring of three individuals within the Directorate department or the whole Department of Finance. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. It's throughout the entire department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these three people earmarked as to who they are or will they wait for the consultant to come back to say what the human resources needs? How did they come up with three people? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Within the department, we identified three individuals with high potential and they will be in policy,

compensation, and accounts payable positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries? Thanks.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Department of Education was in front of us, they talked for quite a while on the Income Support Case Management System, which their department is fine-tuning and has done work here in Iqaluit. They're hoping to roll it out in the next two years to all of the communities and it involves elders' payments and writing of loan cheques. I'm sure your department is quite aware of it.

But one of the things that the Department of Education said was that one of the things that might slow the process down is the qualifying or appraising of the system by your department. I was just wondering if you could give us an update as to how that's going and how long that will take. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I appreciate that I'm not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Department of Finance. In the Department of Finance, we're a central agency department and we work with all of the departments throughout the government.

With respect to the specific question, our department would be working closely with that other department to make sure the process is working internally to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To me, that program is something that needs to be pushed through and not done... I guess it has to be done properly.

The advantages in terms of what was explained to us from the Department of Education in terms of having that up and running in all of the communities is a great benefit because what it, in fact, does is allows the income support workers to work with people on social assistance and give them the time that they need to do more proactive activities and get people in training and working instead of just writing cheques. We were told from the department, it's something like 80,000 or 70,000 cheques a year.

Could one of your representatives maybe explain a little bit more? I wouldn't want to come back in a year and have the Department of Education tell us that because of holdups within the Department of Finance, we weren't able to move forward on this. So if someone

could explain it a little bit more. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking the question. As I indicated earlier, we are the central agency department supporting all departments. This would fit in with the overall strengthening financial management throughout the government and throughout Nunavut.

If Mr. Elliott wishes for details, Mr. Ma is more than willing to provide them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Please, yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to keep it fairly high level, I guess, without getting too much into detail.

With any new system that you implement, you want to make sure that you have the proper internal controls. Before I came over here, I heard Mr. Schell speak a bit about our appearance with you in September and it gets back to what the minister just said about strengthening financial management. What good internal controls are, are such things as an appropriate approval process.

I think all members here are aware of this situation that happened recently in Sanikiluaq with the district education

authority. By that I mean somebody who is actually approving an income support payment should not be the same person who is approving the payment of that payment. So those are the types of things that we are working with Education on.

Another example of a good internal control would be the sequencing of cheques. Cheques should likely all be pre-numbered and they should all be numbered sequentially. Those cheques should probably be put somewhere in safe custody where somebody doesn't have access to the cheques and write cheques that should be going to somebody else. Our job, because we're sort of the experts, if you will, in the financial area in terms of financial management, would be to provide that type of advice.

I want to assure the member that there is no way that we would hold up this project. In fact, I would say that we're a fairly strong proponent of the project going forward by Education. Obviously, it's to the benefit of our department and the government overall if they can implement the new income support case software. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. I have no other names. Therefore, C-4. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,227,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Branch Summary. C-5. Finance. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,111,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question in the lines of the Memorandum of Understanding and Crown corporations.

The business plan indicates that one of the government's priorities for the 2010-11 fiscal year is to "Finalize and execute Memorandums of Understanding with all territorial corporations regarding governance, roles and responsibilities."

When will you table these Memorandums of Understanding in the legislative? If I may, Mr. Chairman, what direction is the government giving to Nunavut's Crown corporations and agencies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Mr. Aupaluktuq to reference us to the page he is asking a question about in the business plan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: That is C-5, the draft main estimates under the Policy and Planning for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for... we've got lots of paper up here and we have to shuffle through.

I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. It's priority 3, "Finalize and execute Memorandums of

Understanding..." The MOU templates exist and the plan is already in our new fiscal year to get those out. Due to staff constraints in 2009, we weren't able to move very quickly on those, but we're hoping to table those Memorandums of Understanding as soon as possible.

I believe that in your opening comments, you might have made a reference to the one that we should table. We do pay serious attention to those opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the hon. minister for that response. I look forward to that.

As of today, what's the status of the government's action plan to address the financial management problems of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and when do you anticipate that it will receive a clean audit opinion from the Auditor General? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has the lead for implementing the recommendations on the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification and for the record as well regarding the Nunavut's Crown corporations and agencies, you mentioned you would be tabling soon enough and that includes the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that on page C-5 in the business plan?

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Yes, that was just a follow-up question under C-5, the main estimates in regard to the Nunavut Crown corporations and agencies. I just wanted verification for the record if those Crown agencies and corporations were, in fact, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. Yes, they are Crown agencies and they also include any other public agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: I just need clarification on Mr. Aupaluktuq's question. Did you say that templates are made and are now available for MOUs with those Crown corporations? Did I hear that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Yes, the templates and letters exist. We just have to fill in particular information that we would include in the letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not the MOU itself. The MOU... well, I was a little confused because if you have templates for three different Crown corporations, your expectations on performance are probably different from each other. How do you make a template that fits all? I guess that's what I was confused about.

I guess one clarification is that the MOU actual letters will be different for each organization, for each corporation or Crown corporation, but the template will consist of mostly numbers and figures that you expect them to perform on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Although it's a template, there are some common items to all of the

Crown agencies. For example, quarterly reporting and budgeting information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if this has been asked, but I didn't hear or maybe I misheard it.

When you finished those templates with the MOU with these Crown corporations for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation, when will you table these through the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that follow-up question. We would like to table them as soon as possible, even possibly as early as the June sitting or if not by then, certainly by the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the activity, Policy and Planning, deals with support for the Nunavut Liquor Commission and it's responsible for liquor enforcement and inspections.

As I have stated many times, I live in a technically dry community. My question, Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister is: during your appearance last

year before MLAs, the issue of information sharing with the RCMP was raised. What actions have been taken to increase cooperation between the department and the RCMP to fight the illegal sale of liquor or alcohol, if you will? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. We share information with the RCMP with respect to the names of individuals who are receiving permits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Mr. Chairman, my second question is: over the last two years, Mr. Minister, how much revenue has been received by the government from fines imposed for the violation of the *Liquor Act*? Do you still support allocating fines revenue to alcohol education and treatment programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister of Finance, I don't have that information on the amount of fines. That would be in the Department of Justice. You will have to ask the Minister of Justice that question.

>>Laughter

But to answer the second part of your question, I know I used to ask these questions of the Minister of Finance,

would he use the proceeds of fines to redirect them into helping alcohol education. Yes, I still support that. I have talked to my Deputy Minister of Finance about that.

We're hoping, through the review of the *Liquor Act*, that consultations will be underway in the next 12 to 18 months. We will come up with some innovative ideas on how to provide more funding to alcohol education committees and substance abuse programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I suggest that you consult with your twin brother.

>>Laughter

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I was going to say that I am a proponent of departments working together, whatever differences they hold. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation) That was just a comment. (interpretation ends) Did you want to respond, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can assure you that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice do consult quite frequently on issues that relate to alcohol and substance abuse in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regard to the business

plan on page C-5 under the priorities for 2010-11, the first bullet. I was wondering if the minister could give us an update in terms of the territorial funding formula. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. The current TFF agreement arrangement expires in 2014. We're gearing up for negotiations. It provides approximately 80 percent of our annual budget, so it's quite important. This fiscal year coming up, we're just fine. We're a little worried about future years, in terms of the federal budgeting process, if there are any cutbacks.

We hope that the federal government doesn't attack the TFF for Nunavut or anyone in the North. Our folks are preparing for the negotiations. The three territorial departments of Finance for Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon are working with the federal Department of Finance to prepare for those negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I heard the minister correctly. Did he say that we receive 80 percent of our funding from the federal government or is it 95 percent of our funding? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Approximately 84 percent of our funding comes through the TFF and the balance of the funding comes from other federal programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So just for clarification, 84 percent comes from TFF and more comes through other funding sources, like the Building Canada Fund and those types of funds. Does it actually add up to a total of about 95 percent or do you have that figure? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Yes, it's approximately 93 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What specific items are the negotiating team asking for? We have done the review of Health and Social Services and have heard Mr. Campbell saying, in effect, that his budget is not enough or adequate in terms of funding. That's something that we would hopefully be asking for. Are there any specifics that we're asking for?

In meetings we've had as well, we were told that health costs are going up and up and up and out-of-territory costs for medical charges for our patients who go

out of territory are going up. Is this something that is being negotiated or is that one part of it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Sorry, pardon me. It's a very complicated subject. In the past, we have offered to provide explanations to standing committees. If Mr. Elliott would like the details of how the whole TFF is calculated, I can ask my deputy minister to provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Chair could initiate a letter or if Mr. Ma could write us and set a time maybe in June, that would be nice and I would be willing to attend that. Again, it's nice to learn that information.

My question was geared more towards what specific things we are negotiating for. Are we just going as three territories and saying, "Give us more money"? Are we going and saying, "Well, we need money for ports and waterways because the Northwest Passage is melting. We're going to have ships going through all of the time." Are we going and saying, "Well, repeatedly we run over on our costs for health care. Can we negotiate that?"? I want specifically what you guys are negotiating, not how the territorial formula works. I hope that clarifies it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I'll take a cut at it. As I said, it's a very complicated topic.

I think the three territorial governments, in all of the years, are not satisfied with the level of funding from Ottawa. It is something that we have continued to work with Ottawa. A lot of it has to tie with what we call a gross expenditure base, which is a component of the territorial formula funding agreement that represents an estimate of the GN's expenditure needs.

So we have to work very diligently to convince Ottawa that here are our true costs and then we work towards a formula that will give us an allocation that will sustain our future expenditure needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ma could provide more details if Mr. Elliott wishes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was a CBC report that was talking about to get some of the things done that we're talking about in the *Tamapta* Action Plan that we have to be innovative.

I think one of the things that we never had in the past is that card to play that the world is changing, we already seeing it affecting our polar bear quotas, and that's the global warming and it's not going to stop. All three of our territories are along the Northwest Passage and if the federal government is going to buy in, "Use it or lose it," now is the time

that they need to start investing into our territory.

We repeatedly go back in capital, we don't have money. We repeatedly go back in O&M, we don't have money. To me, that's something I think we should push. If Mr. Ma could give a little bit more of an explanation, it would be great. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me just say that we would be pleased to provide an information session on the territorial formula financing, the TFF.

I think that when we did the original orientation of all new members in the Third Assembly, we did give a bit of an overview. I think it probably is good for us to give you a refresher course, if you want, in that regard and we will certainly plan towards that in the June sitting.

The TFF is basically driven by three components. The minister spoke to one of them, which is the gross expenditure base. The GEB is supposed to be a representative of a comparable level of services and programs that you would get anywhere else in southern Canada and that would be given to all three territories. It's only the territories that get the TFF.

A second component of that is population growth or decrease. So we have been, in some ways, the fortunate recipient of more money because of the growth in our population.

The third factor that's considered in all of this is the capacity of a particular jurisdiction to generate tax revenue. Of course, as you guys have been drilling my poor minister here the last several days, we don't have a whole lot of capacity to generate additional revenues. So that again works in our favour.

I believe the minister may have mentioned it in his Budget Address and if he didn't, it certainly was in our fiscal and economic outlook document that was provided as part of the budget documents. Over the last several years, the TFF has generally grown by about 6.1 percent annually, which I think equivocally would turn out to be about sixty-seven million dollars off the top of my head. I actually don't have the figure in front of me. So we have been very fortunate.

The current agreement actually expires in 2013-14 off the top of my head. Even though that seems like a long ways away, the work and the discussions that have to happen with federal Finance are going to take time. We certainly learned that in the last go around. I came in at that point very late as the new deputy of finance. I can tell you, it was a very tough, gruelling process, so we're trying to gear ourselves up.

There's no specific answer at this point of time in terms of how to move forward, but as the minister has indicated several times, health is a priority obviously within our government. I think members here, our minister, and other members of Cabinet have mentioned our infrastructure needs. So certainly, we're very aware of the things that have to happen. We have been very fortunate because we have a

fairly good working relationship with federal Finance.

I think in 2007, we got the \$23 million that we have spoke quite extensively about here to approve our financial management. Part of the lobbying effort that we mounted as a territory resulted in the Building Canada Fund, which helped us in terms of infrastructure. We were again, I think, fairly successful, us and the other two territories, this year and got the THSSI thing extended for another two years.

So believe me, I think fed Finance is hearing our voice in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. I have no more names. C-5. Branch Summary. Finance. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,111,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's business plan indicates that its action plan to address the concerns and recommendations in the Auditor General's 2009 report to Legislative Assembly on the GN's financial management practices will be implemented over the next three years. What is the status of the action plan and will you commit to tabling in the Legislative Assembly an annual update on its implementation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. The action plan is well

underway and we will commit to providing updates. I noted in the standing committee's comments today that they're going to hold the government accountable for a three-year promise, so I'll probably pay fairly close attention to the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Also, the 2007 federal budget announced in funding the \$23 million to help the GN strengthen financial management. How much of that \$23 million is being spent for that purpose? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. We don't have the details with us, but we have spent a considerable amount of that funding particularly on the hardware side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a different question altogether. I appreciate that. It's probably used for computer and accounting hardware, etcetera.

The different question is the government's *Tamapta* Action Plan, which was tabled last December, I think, indicated that the GN will undertake a functional work review of decentralization, which one is working,

which one is not working, etcetera. How will Department of Finance participate in this review? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. The Department of EIA has the lead on that, but the Department of Finance would support the work of the EIA. As I said earlier, we're a central agency department, so we do provide support to all of the other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Again, we will go to C-5. Branch Summary. Finance. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,111,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Go to C-6. Finance. Branch Summary. Financial Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,068,000. Agreed? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page C-7 of the department's business plan under the priorities for 2010-11, the first bullet talks about "Establish and implement a professional training regime to enhance the financial expertise of the territory at all levels." Is this to hire a consultant to come up with a plan to train people? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to confirm with my official on the question. This would be an in-house training program that we're developing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the resources and the expertise for the designing of this come from within the department and the people who are already hired or is an outside consultant being hired to provide that training? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. The plan is to do it in-house and there is an individual who is already working in the Department of Finance involved in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have another question in terms of the training. Is that training going to be linked to a qualification of some sort, like through Nunavut Arctic College or Carleton University? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. It depends on who the training organization is linked. I think I had

mentioned last year that Algonquin College might be involved and it could be Nunavut Arctic College. It depends who is involved in providing the training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On June 10, 2009, I asked the minister questions regarding the \$2 million that was passed off to the human resources department.

At the same time, I had brought up questions about his department working with the Department of Human Resources to complete a comprehensive human resources strategy. At that time, there was a commitment to table that in the fall. I'm just wondering why that hasn't been tabled yet. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. He's certainly been fairly diligent in following up on my promises and commitments.

Mr. Chairman, the reason we had to hire the consultant that he was asking about earlier was to work on the implementation plan and help speed up the process. We hope to be able to table that as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I make lists and lists of promises that the

minister is making. I feel that's part of my job, holding the government accountable for what they say and the actions that they do. So thanks for noticing that.

The other reason I brought that up is because on page C-7 of the business plan for your department, the top bullet for priorities for 2009-2010 actually says that the status of that is complete if I'm reading that correctly. So it will be tabled in the next couple weeks. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, the strategy itself is complete and we can table that. It's the implementation plan that we're working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no further names for C-6. Finance. Branch Summary. Financial Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my opening comments, Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General's most recent report to the Legislative Assembly stated that "the underlying cause of the Government's lack of progress on our previous recommendations is its limited human resource capacity. Simply put, there are not enough qualified financial staff to properly carry out basic financial functions." What is your strategy to address this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Mr. Chairman, it is no secret, I recall when I was a member that one of the MLAs was asking the government those questions and also asking the Auditor General for her support. Recognizing that we do have a shortage of CGAs, CMAs, and CAs throughout the government, at one time, we only had 27 throughout the government.

From the MLA side, we were holding the government accountable doing our standing committee recommendations. Now, as the Minister of Finance, we have followed up on the recommendations. We are providing in-house training. All of the questions that Mr. Elliott has just asked, we're particular to that area with what we're doing in terms of developing an internal training regime.

So we do have plans to find trained and qualified accountants to not only do work in the Department of Finance but will work throughout the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last June, you committed to tabling your department's human resources strategy in the Legislative Assembly in the fall. Why have you not yet tabled it and will you table it in the next sitting? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. We have the strategy. I apologize that we didn't table it in the fall. We have it. We have to go and get Cabinet approval to table the document and we will table it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Are you finished, Mr. Arvaluk? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have one question. Your department's business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2011-12 fiscal year is to consider consolidating the government's main estimates and capital estimates. Does this mean that you're looking at having both the main estimates and the capital estimates introduced in the Legislative Assembly at the same time and if so, why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. As I responded to that question earlier, it's in planning. We read the plan and looked at all of the different options.

The answer to his question is not something that we're considering doing any time soon. As the central agency and the Department of Finance, we have to look at all of the different scenarios in terms of financial controls and preparing documents, and so on and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. My attempt to finish off C-6.

>> *Laughter*

Finance. Branch Summary. Financial Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,068,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

C-7. Branch Summary. Finance. Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,176,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. C-8. Finance. Branch Summary. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$14,160,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. C-9. Branch Summary. Finance. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$34,727,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go back to C-3. Department Summary. Finance. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$57,469,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are members agreed that the Department of Finance is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Peterson if you have closing comments.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the committee for their continued support of the Department of Finance. I would like to thank my officials who are here today, Mr. Ma and Mr. Chown, who is in the Gallery, all of the other finance staff in the Department of Finance throughout the headquarters and regions who have worked very hard to prepare all of the capital estimates and main estimates. As you can appreciate, it's a lot of work, so they have done a great job.

I would also like to assure the members of the committee that we do take the opening comments from yesterday very seriously, and I was listening very intently to Mr. Arvaluk and Mr. Schell. Reading the reports of standing and special committees has brought back fond memories of when Mr. Tootoo and I had used to do that. It would be quite long. I'll be sitting down with my staff reviewing your recommendations. I assure you that we will take everything seriously and we will endeavour to table all of the reports that you gave asked for.

I'll have to be very careful with what I commit to in the future, as I'm sure Mr. Elliott will be dogging me at the next appearance. I mean that with the sincerest respect because it is important for regular members to hold the government accountable and help us to do our jobs to serve all Nunavummiut and to spend the limited money that we have wisely and prudently so that it goes as far as we can stretch it. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson and your official. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-arms, if you can escort the witnesses.

(interpretation ends) I have asked Mr. Okalik to take the Chair at this point for the next department. (interpretation) Thank you.

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. We can now move on to another department. The Minister of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna, you can now begin your opening comments.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here before the Committee of the Whole to present the budget of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for 2010-11.

I will use this opportunity to describe the changes proposed in next year's main estimates and business plan and to outline some of the spending priorities proposed by the department.

Following my opening comments, I will be pleased to answer your questions and those of other members of this committee about our proposed budget and program activities for 2010-11.

With me today are members of senior management from the department. The management team is: Deputy Minister

Robert Long; Methusalah Kunuk, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Transportation Branch; and Sherri Rowe, Director of the Finance and Administration Division. They will assist me in responding to your questions.

The budget we are reviewing today is for expenditures for salaries, grants and contributions, and operations by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The total budget I am proposing for the 2010-11 fiscal year is \$53,284,000. In the current year, the department's budget is \$55,386,000. Our new budget therefore represents a decrease of \$2,102,000 from the current year's budget.

The principal cause of the overall reduction in our total budget will be the completion this year of the department's work coordinating the Government of Nunavut's participation in the cultural festivals and events associated with the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games.

As you know, \$2,091,000 is allocated to the games-related projects this year and all but \$200,000, or \$1,891,000 of this one-time funding, will be completed March 31, 2010. Similarly, the last of the federal Northern Strategy funds totalling \$1,331,000 were used this year to complete the Small Communities Initiatives Program. This funding also sunsets on March 31 this year.

The other major changes for the upcoming 2010-11 main estimates represent budgetary increases.

The department has received additional financial resources to support the

Nunavut Employees Union salary increase of \$620,000.

The department has been allocated an additional \$500,000 to support the preparation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy.

With these major exceptions and despite increases to the funding allocated to certain programs which I will outline later, the department's total budget allocation is substantially unchanged from 2009-2010.

In 2010-11, the department will maintain its current program commitments to ensure that important initiatives and key priorities already underway continue to receive support. These include:

- Continuing improvements to the operations of the Motor Vehicles Office in Iqaluit.
- Undertaking public consultations on the proposed new *Traffic Safety Act* for the territory.
- Ongoing implementation of *Sanaugait*, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Strategy, including continuing promotion of the successful Nunavut brand for arts and crafts.
- Implementation of *Parnautit*, the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy.
- Implementation of the new Tourism Development Strategy for Nunavut.

- Continuing implementation of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy; and
- Implementation of the recommendations of the comprehensive review of the NNI Policy.

However, despite the department's commitment to these ongoing programs and the limitations of a status quo budget allocation, there will be a number of important changes to how the department will do business in 2010-11. First, I want to point out a number of small but significant changes we propose to make to the allocation of current program funding within the 2010-11 main estimates.

This year, the Community Access Roads Program has been added to the department's operating budget. As some members will know, community access road development has been supported in the past through the department's capital budget. However, the department can no longer maintain the program with the available capital funds.

The Community Access Roads Program is both popular and effective. I directed the department to identify the funds for the program from within the 2010-11 operating budget. As you can see on page K-7 of the main estimates and on page K-10 of the business plan, community access roads now appear as a new program within our Transportation Branch, with a budget of \$500,000. We propose to maintain this successful program.

To improve the delivery of programs and services in the coming year, additional

reallocation of current program funding has been necessary. These changes are listed on page K-7 of the main estimates.

To increase our support for Nunavummiut who wish to participate in Nunavut's dynamic mineral exploration and mining industry, the department has renewed and expanded the popular Prospector's Assistance Program this year and next year, we will increase the budget by 50 percent to \$150,000. This is in addition to continuing work on the implementation of the mining strategy and the maintenance of the mine training round table.

For our cultural industries, two program expansions are proposed.

First, the department proposes to increase the operating budget provided to the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association by \$100,000 to \$300,000 so that the organization can play a larger developmental role in our communities and in the implementation of the arts and crafts strategy.

Another major increase is proposed to the Nunavut Film, Television and New Media Development Program from the current \$650,000 to \$825,000. This year, the Nunavut Film Development Corporation prepared an analysis of the considerable economic impact of this important new cultural industry. The additional funding will allow the corporation to extend this impact by introducing new programming in 2010-11 and to expand the marketing of Nunavut as an international film location.

The department continues to support the strengthening of the private sector's role

in our economy. It is proposed that funding for the Business Development Centres Program be increased to \$1,050,000, an increase of \$250,000, which will allow enhancements to the operating budgets for the centres in each region and bring the funding for the Kitikmeot Community Futures Organization to an equitable level.

The department also will increase its support for the operations of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation from \$200,000 to \$300,000. As committee members know, the corporation has secured substantial funding for broadband expansion and new Internet services in the territory, and it needs the additional operating support to manage its new responsibilities.

These economic development and transportation program funding increases which total \$1,175,000 will be achieved through reductions to the contract services' budgets of the Corporate Management and Economic Development branches and by applying a vacancy factor to the calculation of compensation and benefits' budgets across the department. Put simply, the department will do more with less.

In addition to the improvement of our programs and services, the department's principal consideration in calculating the budget for 2010-11 has been to ensure that our mission and guiding principles contribute to the government's vision expressed in the *Tamapta* Action Plan. In our business plan for 2010-11, the department focuses on three priority areas from the action plan.

The first of these priority areas is "Reduce Poverty." To assist with the

preparation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy and the implementation of specific measures to alleviate poverty and its effects, the department has been provided a proposed one-time budget adjustment of \$500,000. These funds are reported in the business plan on page K-2 as the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat.

At this time, a detailed work plan and budget for the use of the \$500,000 in 2010-11 is in preparation. In the meantime, by earmarking the funds under this name, it signals the lead role the department must play as the coordinating agency for the work of other departments, Inuit organizations, other governments, non-governmental organizations, and our business community – all of whom will be involved in this important new endeavour.

Secondly, the department has a key role to play in the *Tamapta* Action Plan priority to “Increase support for culture and the arts,” and the effort to build a more cohesive culture and arts sector. I have already referred to the department’s proposal to increase its support for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and the Nunavut Film Development Corporation and to continue the implementation of the arts of crafts strategy.

The department is currently evaluating the outcomes of its new Arts and Crafts Development Program and while the \$425,000 budget will be maintained, improvements will be made to the program in the coming year. The department is also examining ways to make additional financial resources available to arts organizations through

the Strategic Investments Program, especially those organizations that sponsor festivals and other cultural events for local artists in our communities.

Finally, the department leads in the effort to achieve a third *Tamapta* Action Plan priority, “Support community-based, sustainable economies.”

The department, as I have mentioned, has increased the funding for the development of small business in our communities through enhancements to the Business Development Centres Program.

Both the Small Business Support Program and the Strategic Investments Program also provide direct financial support to community-based businesses and organizations.

The department currently supports from within its operating budget the work of regional socio-economic monitoring committees, which bring together community representatives with representatives from the mining companies, governments, and Inuit organizations to discuss the effects of major development projects and to find ways to ensure there is growing local participation in the benefits of these projects.

The continuing implementation of our sector strategies and in particular, *Parnautit*: the Nunavut Exploration Mining Strategy will help strengthen community economies.

The department’s support of the ongoing work of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation to ensure

Internet access is improving and available to all Nunavummiut, helps community-based business to access the information it needs, and to identify and reach new business partners and markets.

As we all aware, the continuing development of our community economies depends above all on the maintenance and improvement of a safe and efficient transportation system and community transportation infrastructure.

Work in 2010-11 in this area includes a number projects. While some of these are capital projects, they are worth noting here because the planning and management of these projects is performed by departmental staff and as a result, has implications for the department's operations and maintenance budget. These transportation projects include:

- Completion, with Transport Canada, of a study on the marine transportation needs of the territory, including the feasibility of regional ports.
- Development of a detailed engineering design for the proposed Iqaluit Marine Facility.
- Initiate the engineering design work for the Cambridge Bay Airport improvements.
- Completion of design, site selection, and engineering of a new air terminal building for the Iqaluit International Airport.
- Implementing a safety management system at all airports in Nunavut in

accordance with Transport Canada regulations.

- A review of the airport operating funding formula and improvements in communications with communities to help ensure the funding process for each community airport is equitable and meets individual community needs.

Since taking on this portfolio, it has become apparent to me that the lack of transportation infrastructure is a serious impediment to economic development in Nunavut, and I will continue to work with my department, my Cabinet colleagues, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and other levels of government to ensure that Nunavut's transportation needs are recognized as a priority.

The department has a very ambitious agenda for 2010-11, Mr. Chairman, one that now reflects the *Tamapta* Action Plan priorities and sets the course for improvements that will be made over the next three years. While our budget is limited, I am confident that with effective planning, the department can make good progress this year on the achievement of its priorities.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome comments and questions from committee members on the 2010-11 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I want to remind you that in the previous year, I stated that we were reviewing operations and

maintenance budget estimates, not the capital estimates. Whenever you mention capital estimates, it just opens the door to misunderstanding and the members tend to go off on a tangent.

This is just a friendly reminder to you so that you don't make the same titling error when referencing the budget estimates as the House deals with capital items in the fall session.

Before we begin, Minister Taptuna, would you like to have witnesses brought to the table? Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in so that they can be introduced.

My colleagues, do you agree to allow the minister to have his officials accompany him?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The witnesses have been escorted in and are at the table.

Minister Taptuna, if you would please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Gordon MacKay, Assistant Deputy Minister of Economics and on my right is Deputy Minister Bob Long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. The Chairman of the

Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, Mr. Rumbolt, you may now proceed with your opening comments.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his staff to our committee meeting.

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 for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget of \$53,284,000 has decreased by approximately 1.43 percent since the introduction of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. This decrease is due in part to the end of the funding which was allocated towards the government's involvement in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. The number of positions in the department is 130. This is an increase of 24.5 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 issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Establish the Anti-Poverty Secretariat to develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy that addresses priorities as outlined in the Tamapta Action Plan." The department's proposed 2010-11 main estimates has

allocated \$500,000 towards this initiative. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members questioned why the department plans to hire only one PY for this secretariat.

While the standing committee supports measures to address poverty in Nunavut, members encourage the minister to look into alternate ways of drafting a strategy without an overreliance on the use of outside consultants. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this issue.

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. Members are aware that the current government, through its Public Agencies Council, is undertaking a new approach to this exercise and looks forward to the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of priority-setting items directed to these Crown agencies.

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 have not included information on the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of the government's major Crown corporations and agencies, including the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The standing committee strongly recommends that information concerning these Crown

corporations' activities also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

The standing committee also notes with disappointment that neither the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation nor the Nunavut Development Corporation have provided business plans to the standing committee for its review since 2008-09. Members strongly encourage the minister to provide these for the standing committee's next annual review. The standing committee also urges the minister to table the 2009-2010 and 2010-13 business plans for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also notes that the Nunavut Development Corporation is required by law to "create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities." The standing committee encourages the minister to look into increasing the economic opportunities for Nunavut's smaller communities and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The department's 2009-2010 main estimates included \$167,000 in funding for a new subsidiary investment for the Nunavut Development Corporation. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members asked questions on how this funding was spent and questioned why the proposed 2010-11 main estimates does not include funding for a new subsidiary investment. The minister committed to providing this information to the standing committee. The standing committee encourages the

minister to provide this to the members at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2010-11 main estimates include \$20,044,000 in grants and contributions expenditures. In 2009-2010, the department's actual spending on grants and contributions was \$20,300,000. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how the department measures and evaluates the results of its grants and contributions expenditures. Members were informed that the department uses community and business feedback to measure and evaluate these expenditures. The standing committee recommends that the minister provide detailed information to the House on exactly how the department measures and evaluates its grants and contributions expenditures.

The department's 2010-13 business plan provides updates regarding its 2009-2010 goals, which included developing a new Film, Television and New Media Development Program policy, reviewing and revising the Strategic Investments Program, and reviewing and revising the Policy on Program Partnerships. The standing committee looks forward to these being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to undertake the second five-year comprehensive review of the NNI Policy in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that the department's review of the NNI Policy is expected to be

completed by March 31, 2010. The standing committee looks forward to the results of this review and urges the minister to table the annual reports of the Contracting Appeals Board in a timely manner.

Last year, the new federal Northern Economic Development Agency established its headquarters in Iqaluit. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members asked questions on the status of the relationship between this new federal agency and the department with respect to how they are working together for the benefit of Nunavut's economy. The standing committee was pleased to hear that CanNor and ED&T are in regular contact and have begun distributing funds throughout Nunavut. Members look forward to the minister providing regular updates on this collaboration to the Legislative Assembly.

The department's proposed 2010-11 main estimates include \$1,050,000 in funding for Nunavut's three business development centres. On September 17, 2008, the report titled *An Evaluation of Business Development Centres in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Regions* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's 2010-13 business plan states that "A working group, consisting of Business Development Centre and departmental staff has prepared an implementation plan and begun work on specific action items." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this initiative and encourages the minister to carefully evaluate the results that are achieved by the government's investment in this area.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased with the recent announcement that the First Nations Bank of Canada will be opening a branch in Iqaluit and is expected to be operational in April of this year. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members asked a question on the issue of the department's plan to "Assess and correct gaps and inconsistencies in legislation and policies for the support of social enterprises including the Cooperative Associations Act, the Credit Unions Act, and Community Development Corporations." The minister committed to providing an update to the standing committee on this issue. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide an update on this issue at the earliest opportunity.

On June 4, 2007, the Government of Nunavut issued a news release announcing the establishment of six principles to serve as a guide for uranium mining in the territory. The release indicated that "the principles will serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan for the Government of Nunavut." During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members requested an update on the status of the government's development of this plan. It was unclear from the minister's response exactly what progress the GN has made in developing a plan. The standing committee strongly urges the minister to update the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut on developments in this area at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed main estimates for 2010-11 include \$2,175,000 in grants and contributions funding for tourism development, including funding for Nunavut Tourism. The department's 2010-13 business plan indicates "A steering committee... has completed a tourism industry assessment, conducted a review of current legislation, and developed a preliminary framework for a new tourism strategy." The department's 2010-13 business plan indicates that the Nunavut Tourism Strategy will be completed by March 31, 2010.

The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of an updated Nunavut Tourism Strategy. The standing committee also looks forward to the minister resuming the practice of tabling Nunavut Tourism's annual reports, which will help enable all Members of the Legislative Assembly to evaluate the success of the government's investments in the tourism sector of the economy. The standing committee was pleased by the minister's tabling of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy on June 5, 2009 in the Legislative Assembly and looks forward to the ongoing updates on its implementation of the strategy.

The department's 2010-13 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities is to continue work in relation to a number of significant megaprojects, including the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road, the Iqaluit Marine Facility, and the Nunavut-Manitoba Road. The department's 2010-13 business plan also indicates that it will continue to work on having the recommendations on the *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report* implemented. The standing committee looks forward

to ongoing updates from the minister on these important initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments before we go to the page-by-page review? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I am a little confused looking at the main estimates. I realize that in the minister's opening comments, they plan to conduct a departmental review for 2010-11 main estimates and business plan, but they are not talking about the capital plan *per se*. Perhaps this will happen later on.

On page 4 of the opening comments, in the third paragraph, it speaks to matters pertaining to access roads. It says in the opening comments that there is \$500,000 in the budget put aside for the construction of new community access roads, but I don't see the budget item in the main estimates. I don't need an immediate reply for this, mind you, but the major contents of the minister's opening comments must be reflected in the main estimates which we are now reviewing. If we are going to talk about his opening comments, we will inevitably deal with capital items.

So I want to ask, Mr. Chairman, with your permission: why has this budget item of \$500,000 remained the same since before you were born? The department already knows that this

budgeted item is always insufficient. We have made various attempts in the past at applying for these funds, but we have been told that funding that year was insufficient. I would like to know if this has changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're not dealing with capital projects. However, I informed the same minister last year that this is not the forum for dealing with capital projects, but since he made reference to that matter, he should try to respond to the question. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and respond to the hon. member's question here. The \$500,000 was moved from capital to O&M as the program has been very popular throughout Nunavut since its inception and we just moved that over from capital to O&M. But not only that, we're in the process of accessing more money from CanNor to supplement what we have there for access roads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This item is probably in the business plan and I was wondering why it was there. I know that interest in the Community Access Roads budget line is quite high as per community needs. However, when many communities are interested in constructing community access roads, why hasn't this particular budget been increased at all? Other items get increased when they're insufficient. So why has this particular figure not changed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, it is a popular program and the amount remains the same, with a very limited budget that the department has, but we're accessing another \$500,000 from CanNor, the new federal agency that we have here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I wish now to move into a totally different topic as my last issue prior to directing my questions in our page-by-page review later on. I want to note that this issue was not even referenced in his opening comments nor did I see it mentioned in the main estimates.

If memory serves, I seem to recall the minister making a statement last year in his department's O&M estimates that the focus was going to be on developing local economies related to fisheries and inter-settlement trade. I was wondering if these two areas have been allocated funding yet.

I would also like to know if these development plans are related to the small craft harbour projects in any way, as this need has been voiced before. I am not talking about planned construction phases but rather the planning documents themselves. I want an update on the negotiations between our government and the federal government in regard to docks and harbours. I believe we discussed this issue at length last year.

As Canadians, we want to be part of Canada. Today, nothing is happening north of 60 in construction. When you travel anywhere in southern Canada, in New Brunswick, in Newfoundland and Labrador, or any other province, you will see all sorts of docks, wharfs, and small craft harbours all over the place. Even lakes, such as Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, have developed docking facilities in each community or town along their shores.

We were led to believe that this department would begin negotiations. An important question is why Canada still excludes the North in infrastructure development. Why does the north of 60 have nothing compared to the rest of Canada?

I had expected to see some funds allocated towards this initiative in the operations and maintenance budget estimates related to transportation projects. Yet, there is no mention of any transportation projects or initiatives in the minister's opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Small Craft Harbours Program that's under DFO, we still push that as a government. I thank the member for his support in this because he mentioned north of 60 and he's absolutely right that some of the construction stopped and north of 60 was it, the latitude north of 60. There are ongoing talks with DFO and Transport Canada through our departmental staff and whatnot. It's an ongoing battle.

One of the things that we're proposing to do is actually start on a process of coming up with our design for one of the communities in the Qikiqtaaluk region and that's to expedite a project and to actually get a step ahead of DFO so that they can go ahead and start funding some of these infrastructure that we're requesting, especially small craft harbours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions to the opening comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Unfortunately, the minister has neglected to respond to part of my earlier comments in regard to preparations toward replacing the aging community freezers, including meat processing plants. Our communities require properly functioning community freezers and meat processing plants so that the local HTO or any other local body have the capacity and facilities to process, butcher, package, and sell country foods in a sanitary manner.

For example, here we are in the third week of our session and none of us are able to go hunting for country food. However, because we have a small meat processing plant tied to our community freezer, we are able to get our country foods from that place. Communities could potentially generate some revenue through trading with each other.

I expected to see this mentioned in the opening comments. My assumption was that this department had already struck plans to develop this needed infrastructure. I would like to get as much information as I can before this

session is over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Arvaluk. That was a good question. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I got to say that we're looking at these issues. For community freezers, it's one of our priorities to reintegrate it into our Poverty Reduction Strategy that we're trying to come up with.

It's important and I agree with the member that there should be some inter-settlement trade of country foods. We talked about the health of our people and a lack of good, nutritious food. Every time, we say that nutritious food is our country food, that there's nothing like it out there. I agree wholeheartedly that it's a fact that we're going to look into and we're all working on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: I would like a raise in salary since I'm Speaker now. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of the minister's opening comments, it talks about the implementation of the new Tourism Development Strategy. Is that strategy actually completed and finished today? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategy is almost done. We do have a draft that's going to be presented to the Cabinet for approval and once it's approved, we will certainly

make it available to the House here.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: As a draft, it will be done; I imagine it will be done once it's approved by Cabinet.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: I mentioned that once it's approved by Cabinet, I'll make it available to the House here.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott, do you have any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: I have a few more questions, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister maybe... in the old tourism strategy that they had, were there any positive outcomes that came out of that one? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Who's going to respond? Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the old strategy, there were no efforts to implement it. As you know, things change as time goes by. The new tourism strategy is based on what we know today. Of course, with changing times, we have to change with the times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5 of the minister's opening comments, in the third paragraph at the bottom, the last sentence, there's an increase of \$250,000 to "the Kitikmeot Community Futures Organization to an equitable level." I might not be understanding what's being said, but

when did it drop below an equitable level? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's a fairly new organization that's starting up and it's growing. In order to keep in tune with what's happening out there for economic development, of course, they need some more funding for their operations and maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the paragraph below that one, it talks about the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation going from \$200,000 to \$300,000. I'm raising some of the questions that Mr. Rumbolt was talking about. Is that for just increased bandwidth or is that for them to look at other opportunities in terms of providing cell phone services to other communities that do not have it? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. In my ministerial statement today, this afternoon, I indicated that by tomorrow, the Nunavut Broadband Corporation is going to be implementing their expansion tomorrow, March 18. Of course, to maintain the more duties that they have, the more operating costs, that's for their O&M. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Elliott, any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 9, some of them are capital items, but I think, "A review of the airport operating funding formula," I believe that's probably an O&M question. I'm sure, but could he explain that a bit more? Is that the money that goes to each hamlet to maintain and operate the airports that they run? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a representative of a community that might be taking over the new operation of an airport, why is it being reviewed? Is it because the costs are too low and hamlets are using too much of their other money to maintain airport operations? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Throughout the years, the amounts given to the hamlets haven't really changed and we're going through a review process. We want to make it equitable for the hamlets to continue their programs of maintaining the airports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Minister... Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: "Minister Elliott." Sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take the raise in pay too.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In one of the answers to a question that Mr. Arvaluk asked, he sort of alluded to a community receiving a small port or a port. Could you tell us which community it was? Is that the infrastructure dollars from the federal government for Pangnirtung or is this for feasibility studies done in other communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Taptuna.

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

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first part of the answer is that Pangnirtung is getting a new port, as we know, and funds are also set aside for feasibility of plans for an additional port. The one that comes to mind first is Pond Inlet. It will be studied this year, I believe, and I believe that's the only one this year where the design work will be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. I don't know what we're supposed to do at this point. It's O&M, but we're just delving into capital again. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is only going to add to my

confusion about what's O&M and what's not. A feasibility study, to me, seems to fall under both categories. We pay consultants so much to do everything for us, you never know.

I guess my question would be then I know, with the work that I have been doing with the HTOs in my three communities along with Qikiqtarjuaq, there is the Arctic Fisheries Alliance and they put in a feasibility study for a port in their community and were actually trying to access money for a socio-economic impact study. So are you saying that Qikiqtarjuaq is not on the radar screen in your department? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott, I don't know what we can do at this point. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to get back to the member on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Yes, we usually vote on plans and those things, and I imagine that we will get into it in the fall when we deal with capital once again.

So this is what we end up with when you raise capital projects in your opening comments for O&M. Any further questions, Mr. Elliott? Okay. At this point, I have Mr. Ningark. Okay, he's happy now that...

>> *Laughter*

... this issue was raised. Any further comments at this point? I think my colleagues are going to... Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that a couple of colleagues might have a couple of more questions for opening comments, but with respect to the time, I would like to move to report progress, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Abstained. Carried. *Qujannamiik*, minister and your employees. We will report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 22 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 18:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 23
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 20

- Bill 25
- Bill 26
- Bill 27

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

- Bill 14
- Bill 21
- Bill 22

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

