



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**3rd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 46**

**Thursday, October 21, 2010**

**Pages 2566 – 2624**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Iqaluit East)  
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**James Arvaluk**  
(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**  
(Rankin Inlet North)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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(Nanulik)  
*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit West)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
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*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)  
*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)  
*Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Nattilik)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, October 21, 2010**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, 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, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, my colleagues, and all Nunavummiut.

We will now begin with our proceedings. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 191 – 3(2):  
Update on the Nunavut Business  
Credit Corporation**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, colleagues and members.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide the Members of this House with an update on the recent activities of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

On June 28, 2010, Greg Cayen of Iqaluit was appointed chairperson of the corporation, while Nancy Karetak-Lindell of Arviat was appointed vice-chairperson. Marg Epp of Cambridge Bay, Donald Haviyok of Kugluktuk, and Wayne Solomon of Cambridge Bay were also appointed to the board. They join Tommy Owljoot of Arviat and Allan Lahure of Baker Lake, who are continuing members of the board of directors. I am confident these individuals will provide the leadership necessary both within terms of its governance and its service to Nunavut's business community.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation's board of directors has recently taken steps to enhance the corporation's effectiveness with the development of a board orientation manual, credit facilities manual, an administration and conduct manual, and an accounting manual. These are all steps necessary in moving the corporation away from a denial of an audit opinion.

Mr. Speaker, the audit of the fiscal year 2009-2010 has begun at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and I will report to the members the outcome of this audit when it is complete.

I want to thank Alex Buchan, our former chairperson, for his hard work and dedication during his tenure as chairperson along with the other departing board members.

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to do at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, but we are making progress and maintaining the services to Nunavut's business community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 192 – 3(2): Kiluk Seal Leather Pilot Project**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform members of an initiative which is underway in Arviat, where Kiluk Ltd. has partnered with the Department of Environment on a pilot project to develop a line of leather products made from ringed seal.

Kiluk has used ringed seal leather in the past to manufacture high-quality products, such as wallets and binders. This project is making use of skins that have accumulated since the market collapse caused by the EU ban, ensuring that nothing will go to waste.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when market demand for sealskins is low, investing in the research and development of new products is one way that the government and industry can work together to support Nunavut seal harvesters and craftspeople. This initiative is a great example of how we are supporting the development of new markets stimulating consumer demand for sealskins.

This project clearly demonstrates the Government of Nunavut's dedication to

supporting the sealing and fur sector as a vital part of Inuit culture and the Nunavut economy. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 193 – 3(2): Manitoba Nunavut Relations**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Manitoba and Nunavut have a long history of cooperation and working together toward shared goals. We share more than borders; we share transportation, cultural and family ties. Over the years, we have formalized parts of the relationship of working together in a Memoranda of Understanding. The Government of Nunavut and the Government of Manitoba signed their first MOU in February of 2000.

Last month, Mr. Speaker, I met with Premier Selinger and members of his cabinet to review our joint priorities and to discuss the development of an action plan that will help us achieve our shared goals.

Minister Curley and Minister Kusugak joined me at this meeting. These two ministers, being the MLAs for the region, know very well the strength of our relationship with Manitoba. Having the ministers present to share their experiences, insights, and ideas on how to continue to strengthen the relationship was very helpful.

Mr. Speaker, at the meeting, we agreed to streamline the six existing MOUs by



consolidating them into one single Memorandum of Understanding, with one Nunavut-Manitoba steering committee co-chaired by representatives of both governments. The steering committee will work closely on an implementation plan for the priorities identified, such as health, renewable energy, economic growth, transportation, and opportunities for exchanges for education, cultural and sporting activities.

At the present time, senior officials of both governments are working to prepare the consolidated MOU and a work plan for implementation. I look forward to the completion of this next phase of our work with Manitoba and the opportunity to share the signed consolidated MOU with you in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the people of Rankin Inlet, the Government of Nunavut staff, and Mayor Hickes in Rankin Inlet. They all provided warm hospitality not only to Premier Selinger and the delegation from Manitoba but also to me and the other delegates that were present that were present on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. I am sorry I did not acknowledge you immediately, primarily because a member inadvertently called me the Premier yesterday and I assumed that I had that position.

(interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

### **Minister's Statement 194 – 3(2): Young Parents Stay Learning Program Graduates**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the success of some very special graduates. Seven young mothers from Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit have successfully completed high school as part of the Young Parents Stay Learning program.

Mr. Speaker, Young Parents Stay Learning is a Department of Education daycare subsidy program to help young parents with the cost of licensed child care while attending school. Any parent attending middle or high school or any parent under the age of 18 attending a post-secondary program in Nunavut can apply for this subsidy.

This initiative provides up to a 100 percent subsidy for daycare fees in a licensed school care facility, or a community licensed facility, or approved unlicensed caregiver for young parents while they attend full-time school. In essence, it is a program to fill the gap before these young students are eligible under the rules and regulations of income support.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception in 2005, Young Parents Stay Learning has helped 115 students further their education. This program is an example of the Department of Education's dedication to ensuring fair and accessible assistance that enables Nunavummiut to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, and I ask you and my colleagues to join me, in

congratulating these students and wishing them all the best in their futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We send our congratulations. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

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

#### **Member's Statement 303 – 3(2): Letter from Young Constituent**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year since I was elected to the House, I have received letters or correspondence from all over the place. I really enjoy reading the correspondence I receive from students, especially high school students. I would like to read this very short letter written on September 22.

(interpretation ends) Dear Tagak Curley, MLA for Rankin Inlet North, my name is Kelly Makayak. I'm 16 years old and living in Rankin Inlet. I'm writing a letter to you because I am concerned about the teenage alcoholism and drug abuse here in Rankin Inlet.

My concerns are based on seeing a lot of under-aged drinkers and students who have left school because of drugs. Most teenagers here are saying that the only reason they drink is because we have no recreational activities other than the sports that we have here in Rankin Inlet and the school clubs which run on school hours.

I personally think things would be worked out better if we had an arcade or other things to do here in Rankin Inlet during our school breaks, including weekends.

I understand that you are working on getting a new arena. I also understand that it will take a couple of years to succeed. I have been thinking of some other suggestions, like a bowling alley or theatre, just anything for us teenagers to do after school.

I have witnessed too many things that had to do with alcohol and drugs. I don't like being the odd one out. I also don't plan on starting anytime soon. Thank you for your time and effort, and I will be expecting a reply.

I want to say to this young man that help is on the way. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 304 – 3(2): Progress on the Pangnirtung Harbour**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about progress made on constructing Pangnirtung's new harbour. As members will recall, the 2009 federal budget provided important financial support to accelerate the construction of the community's new harbour. (interpretation ends) This investment was much welcomed by the community.

As members know, one of the foundations of Pangnirtung's economy is the fishing industry. The development of a modern harbour will contribute to our ability to build our industry and create opportunities for training and employment.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House today that progress on the Pangnirtung Harbour is proceeding well. Phase 1 of the project was completed on August 13 on time and on budget. Phase 2, which involved additional dredging and construction of the new breakwater, was completed on October 9. All work is complete for this season and the community is looking forward to the resumption of the construction in June of next year.

Mr. Speaker, this project has created significant local employment and we expect these levels to be maintained next year. Over the coming winter, a floating dock will remain in place. This will be a test to see how they will withstand our currents, ice conditions, and winds of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the good cooperation between the business and the government that we have seen. During the summer, the Department of CGS worked closely with Arctic Co-operatives Limited to address a fuel shortage situation. Their cooperation ensured that the project was not delayed and I thank the minister for recognizing the importance of quick action.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my colleagues have been pushing hard for small craft harbours in their

constituencies. I will continue to support their efforts to back our hard-working Minister of ED&T as he makes the case to Ottawa for additional investments that will support our efforts to build modern infrastructure and achieve greater economic self-sufficiency.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. I allowed you to speak past your allotted time. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 305 – 3(2):  
Summer Events in Resolute Bay**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rose in the House yesterday to inform my colleagues about the important events that took place this summer in Grise Fiord.

I am very pleased to take this opportunity today to speak about summer in Resolute Bay. I would again like to express my appreciation to my constituents for making me feel at home. As the only Member of this House whose constituency includes three communities, I feel that I have three homes.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's visit to Resolute Bay this summer on the occasion of Operation NANOOK 10 also included an historic meeting with a number of our elders, during which he delivered the Government of Canada's official apology for the Inuit High Arctic relocation. This gesture on the Prime Minister's part was much appreciated.

As members are aware, the unveiling of Resolute Bay's monument to the High Arctic exiles took place on September 8.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been a tireless advocate for community involvement and engagement when it comes to ensuring that the human dimension of arctic sovereignty is not neglected. Initiatives such as the annual Nanook sovereignty exercise are extremely important, but we must not lose sight of the fact that the single most effective way for Canada to exert its sovereignty in the High Arctic is to ensure that the residents of our communities live in healthy and sustainable communities.

Mr. Speaker, it will not come as a surprise to members when I say that Resolute Bay was, understandably, disappointed not to have been selected by the federal government as the location for the new Canadian High Arctic Research [Station.] However, I continue to believe that Nunavut is one territory and I want to take this opportunity today to congratulate Cambridge Bay on its selection. On behalf of the residents of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay, I say to Cambridge Bay, "Welcome to the High Arctic. We look forward to your joining us in our efforts to build stronger communities."

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by noting that the community has been encouraged by the efforts being undertaken by the government this summer to identify a long-term solution to our utilidor system in consultation with the community itself. I am hopeful that we will be able to achieve an affordable solution that satisfies the

community's needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

### **Member's Statement 306 – 3(2): Choosing Our Leaders**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may speak a fairly long time, so please remind me when I have gone past my time limit.

I will be speaking to a couple of issues, most of them relating to elders issues. This person came from Pond Inlet whom I spoke to and, if I understood, he wanted me to speak about these issues. There are a lot of adults who are working with an elder and his name is Gamailee Kilukishak. Quite a few people know him already, but it was the first time I met him this summer in Iqaluit.

If I could understand him, then with respect to traditional Inuit knowledge, if I do understand, then I tend to say, "Yes, I understand." When you understand and it's close to our understanding of Inuit culture, it helps us to understand. However, he spoke about an issue I had not even thought of because I'm a little bit younger than that individual. I did not grow up in a traditional lifestyle. Some of us were brought up in the community but were not brought up in the traditional way. It's something I haven't thought of, but he brought it up and I still didn't. If you are going to understand this, you will understand.

He mentions those from Europe, including Queen Elizabeth, as well as her son, Prince Charles, and her grandson. When the Queen's son divorced from his wife, he no longer became eligible to become king. I understood that Prince Charles could never become the King and therefore, Prince William would most likely be the next person to take over the Crown. I understood that as well. I hadn't even thought about the particular issue that he was speaking to.

I would like to ask for an extension of my time, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Our colleague is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This elder was telling me a story and I understood what he was talking about because he was speaking Inuktitut, but apparently the Queen had stated that Prince Charles could not be a king because he had divorced. However, he was talking about his grandson. Yet we hadn't been told about that and being Canadian citizens, the Queen is our sovereign. He was talking about that royal family.

He gave me a very good thought. If those of us who are elected also have to have that perspective, if we are going to be electing future leaders, ministers, or Members of the Legislative Assembly, where there is going to be leadership,

then we also have to think of these candidates in that manner.

Hopefully this is understood, but I understood his point. We have to ensure that when you know the person, Kilukishak from Pond Inlet gave me that idea about that particular story and he wanted to ensure that this statement was understood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

### **Member's Statement 307 – 3(2): Millie Kuliktana**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about a great person, a great community leader who has given her time throughout the years in providing leadership within our community through her work on the hamlet council and through her volunteer efforts on such things as from organizing the Nattiq Frolics to spearheading the formation of the Tahiuqtiit Society, which is a non-profit organization that sponsors local training for youth and other community members.

Mr. Speaker, Millie Kuliktana, and most of you would recognize her name, plays a vital part of our community and has been involved in the school system from working as a classroom assistant to the role of a teacher and most recently in her role as a director of school operations in the Kitikmeot region. Millie has worked diligently with the youth of our community and has opened up her home

on a number of occasions as an alternate to the streets.

As many of you heard, Millie's health has taken a turn for the worse, having developed a rare, life-threatening lung disease which has put a halt to much of her beloved activities. After being hospitalized for two months this fall, she has been allowed to return home to Kugluktuk until January, at which time she is ordered by her doctors to relocate to Edmonton for an ongoing monitoring and treatment.

This weekend, she will gain a new daughter-in-law, as Quinton and his fiancé, Laila Uttak from Igloolik, have moved their wedding date up to allow Millie to celebrate it with them. She also gets to celebrate Christmas at home with family, with many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Millie is unable to continue with her employment and so it will be a great loss to education and to Kugluktuk, including Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Millie Kuliktana this afternoon for her dedication and her commitment to education, and a personal commitment and desire to see better life for Kuglukturmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 308 – 3(2):  
Success of Young Parents Stay  
Learning Program**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know Millie Kuliktana very well and I hope she becomes well in the future.

Now, with respect to our government, I would want to recognize that our government has proceeded. I thought that I would never smile at Hunter Tootoo, but I was actually smiling during his Minister's Statement because he recognizes that young parents who want to further their education are able to do so.

Perhaps this surfaced during my campaign. A young parent conveyed her story who was not quite 18 and she stated she was in hardship because she could not be assisted by any government agency. When I heard about this particular story, I did some research. I worked with Minister Picco to see how we could deal with people in that situation.

I am very happy to report that this is now being followed and it has provided a lot of assistance for students. I thank the young woman who gave me her situation and showed me where to make improvements since it has really provided a lot of assistance for younger students.

I would like to take this opportunity to further urge all Nunavummiut to continue education. It is very easy to quit, but it's only by continuing to work at what we want, even though it's very hard and challenging, and once you pass it, it's very gratifying. After we have completed our education, we can then choose our career.

So I further urge our fellow Nunavummiut, especially the youth, let's look for ways to further our education instead of always looking for issues. It's very easy to quit. So again I encourage you to undertake education in a field that you enjoy. That's what I wanted to speak about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy today to recognize this person. Unfortunately their member is not here, but he has been a past Member of the Legislative Assembly and he's also the hamlet SAO in Repulse, who is also my maternal cousin. So I would like to welcome Steve Mapsalak to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my *Annuraaqatik*. I would also like to recognize a resident from Igloolik. He is a member of the Inuit Heritage Trust. Because he is an elder now, Louis Uttak, who we used to call Alianakuluk, has adopted his surname of Louis Uttak but

his name is Alianakuluk. I would like to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize the board members of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: Greg Cayen, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Marg Epp, Wayne Solomon, Tommy Owljoot, Allan Lahure; and the staff of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: Angela McPherson and Sherry Rowe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize two members of NBCC who are from Arviat and that's Nancy Karetak-Lindell, our former MP and long-serving member on the many organizations that are benefiting Nunavut now, and also Tommy Owljoot, who is a long-serving member on NBCC. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce NBCC member from Baker

Lake, Mr. Al Lahure. Aside from the stores and the government departments that were placed through the federal programs, he employed a lot of Inuit locally as a businessman under Baker Lake Contracting and Supplies. And the result, Baker Lake benefited by having a lot of apprentices as well as journeymen who have benefited from the trades and also have gained employment. With that, I would like to have the distinct pleasure of recognizing Mr. Al Lahure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure this week. It's not very often that I get a chance to recognize people from the Kitikmeot and from my constituency two days in a row. I would like to recognize Marg Epp from Cambridge Bay and Wayne Solomon from Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I served on the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation for six or seven years, so I realize and recognize the tremendous work that these folks have ahead of them. I wish the entire board well in their deliberations. We do need a strong and vibrant private sector. I am sure, with the contributions that this board will make, that we will move in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all of the visitors to the Gallery.

I do represent a constituent who is the Chairperson of the Nunavut Investment Group, Greg Cayen, who is here. Welcome to the Gallery. He is one of my constituents, so I would like to welcome him to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### Item 6: Oral Questions

##### Question 447 – 3(2): Issues with Obtaining Driver's Licences in Cape Dorset

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no questions today for the Minister of Housing, but I'm sure my fellow members do have some questions for him.

I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of obtaining driver's licences in a timely manner in Nunavut has been brought up by colleagues of mine in the House. During the June sitting, the minister indicated that it should take approximately four weeks to receive a driver's licence. My constituents are waiting for several months to get one in Cape Dorset. Can



the minister explain what steps his department has done to improve the process to get a driver's licence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, I agree, some of the processes have taken quite a bit of time. Right at this point, there are 20 applications that are outstanding for Cape Dorset, and there are several different reasons. The application has to come with the proper photographs, the cost of the application has to be included, the payment has to be included within that, and for the most part, there is none of that happening. There are some certain things that do have to come with the application, but those are missing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the contract in Cape Dorset is with the local hamlet and they have an MLO there. My question is: is the contract for 12 months or is it for nine months? It seems like when the person in charge goes on holidays for five weeks, nobody replaces her. She goes on medical travel for a week, nobody replaces her. She decides to go hunting, nobody replaces her. My question is: is the hamlet responsible for that job for 12 months of the year or only nine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the most part, the contract is with the hamlet and with the community liaison officer, who usually issues the driver's licence and processes the issuing of the licence.

Mr. Speaker, the contract, at times... . You are absolutely right. There are some instances where the officers do leave the community for whatever reasons and, for the most part, they are not replaced. That slows down the process, but for the most part, we try and make efforts to send in our clerks to fill in and issue the licensing.

I'm sure, with the Cape Dorset situation where there is a backlog, that we will be making sure that a clerk from our department is sent up to Cape Dorset to assist in the training and the issuing of the driver's licences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I guess it's quite obvious that that's not happening in Cape Dorset. I was told by office here in Iqaluit that there was a period of time where they never got anything from Cape Dorset for three months. If I need to get any registration done, I don't even bother in Cape Dorset. I just go to the office here in Iqaluit because it's not worthwhile to wait. I know several people who got their licences renewed and they had to get them renewed three different times because their temporary licences had expired.

So with all of these problems that are going on, what kind of monitoring do

you have to make sure that this doesn't happen again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are absolutely right. There are a lot of issues and we are trying to alleviate some of those issues. In fact, the last time we did send a couple of issuing clerks down to Sanikiluaq, where one of the problems with getting the licences out to the clients had been a problem. At this point, we are trying to determine how we can get the community liaison officers trained up more and working more effectively and efficiently.

As we monitor the situation, we have realized that yes, there are a lot of materials going back and forth and applications have to be completed in order to be filled and the proper issuing information is there. So it comes from both sides, from the applicants and our officer. For the most part, we are short-staffed, but with any kind of situation where there is a backlog of applications, we do try and send somebody in there to assist the hamlets and the community liaison officers in moving the process up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Cape Dorset's case, like you say, apparently they hadn't received any paperwork for three months. So I guess my next question is: have you ever considered that if you have an issue in a community that maybe you go to the

private sector to get the contract fulfilled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will certainly consider that. We will see how the next steps go because we are sending people into Cape Dorset to assist the community liaison officer of the hamlet there. If that is the case, we may have to consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 448 – 3(2): Baker Lake Municipal Landfill**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Hon. Minister Dan Shewchuk, Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's question period, I asked questions concerning the conditions at Baker Lake's municipal landfill.

Mr. Speaker, the minister informed me that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada officers are given authority to inspect municipal landfills in relation to their water licences, which are issued by the Nunavut Water Board to each community. I'm assuming that the Department of Environment's staff, such as the local conservation officer, would have accompanied the INAC water resource officers during any inspection.

Can the minister indicate if his staff accompanied the INAC water resource officer when the Baker Lake landfill was most recently inspected and what were the results of the inspection report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. As far as I am aware, I don't know the timeframes of when the last inspection was done on the landfill or dump in Baker Lake.

However, the member is correct in saying that the jurisdiction does belong to INAC and INAC inspectors. However, if we were requested of our local conservation officers to accompany INAC inspectors, we would do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's becoming clear that the issues relating to municipal landfills are very complex. I encourage the Government of Nunavut to table information for the benefit of all Nunavummiut in the House.

The minister indicated yesterday that the Nunavut Water Board has the authority to issue water licences to municipalities. Mr. Speaker, I reviewed the water licence process and it's my understanding that during this process, participants, such as federal and territorial departments, Inuit organizations, community members, and

elders are given an opportunity to review licences and can submit comments.

Is the minister aware of when the Baker Lake water licence was last renewed and did his department have any comments during the renewal process when it examined the licence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for the question. I have no idea of when the last licence was issued to the Hamlet of Baker Lake. Again I say that the jurisdiction belongs with the water board and INAC, and I would suggest to the member, if he is very interested in getting that information, that he acquire that information from them.

I would say that we probably would have had comments at that time, and I could look into that and get back to the member on any comments that we had regarding the licence that was last issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just again would like to stress with the hon. minister that I would encourage the government to table information for the benefit of all Nunavummiut and the House.

Basically this is in regard to public health versus development as well as advancement. We all care for advancement for social development and economic development. But first and

foremost, as northerners and people from Nunavut, the environment is of great prestige and is very precious to us.

So I will encourage the hon. minister to have his department look further into the process as well as the complexity as to how these are dealt with in terms of different levels of governance. So I will be following up these questions further on during the sitting of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. It's not a question, but I give you an opportunity to respond, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to inform the member that if there is any information that I can provide in regard to the licensing of the landfill in Baker Lake and any information that I can assist, I will provide that to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 449 – 3(2): Review of the Nunavut Housing Trust**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Before I get into my question, I would like to thank my colleagues for not forgetting about the \$110 million shortfall of the Nunavut Housing Corporation because we feel that there are still many unanswered questions.

Mr. Speaker, I was a housing manager in Sanikiluaq for 10 years. Whenever our books were being looked at, the auditors always came to Sanikiluaq in person to review the files and interview staff.

If this was done in a small housing association in a small community, I cannot understand why the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the government allowed the accounting firm to audit the \$60 million Nunavut Housing Trust shortfall without actually going to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's offices and looking at the files in person.

Can the minister expand on the answers that he provided yesterday on this issue and explain exactly why we should have confidence in the report's findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. I think the member is not the only one concerned about the issue with respect to the shortfall of the number of years that obviously this particular situation occurred. Ever since 2006, they have been underestimating and under budget far below the cost of actually building units in Nunavut and that has accumulated into something that has become impossible. It took this new management to really dig out the whole slew of problems that should have been reported few years ago but never did.

You know, with respect to the audit, unlike a regular annual audit or usual

audit, this one was about whether or not there were excessive misappropriation of funds and therefore, a special management audit was conducted by the T&D firm. I cannot and I don't speak for the accounting firm. They are responsible for statements that they made to the House and if the report is not accepted, nor acceptable to the members, then certainly we can pass that information on to the D&T. That's about all I can say on this one. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, my colleague from Coral Harbour pointed out a very obvious fact: if you're trying to find out why things went wrong to the tune of \$60 million, you have to talk to the people who made the big decisions so that you can understand the whole situation. Will the minister commit to having the accounting firm make the effort to interview the former president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation so that we can get to the bottom of this very expensive issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, I don't speak for the accounting firm; they are a firm in itself. I would suggest to members that certainly you can invite them here to appear before the committee and explain exactly why they concluded in such a way.

I think the report has been useful. It has confirmed the weaknesses that the

Nunavut Housing Corporation has found to be inadequate. As a result, this House, earlier this spring, affirmed that there needs to be further audits done in order to ensure Nunavutmiut that there was no serious misappropriation of funds which would lead to further investigation.

As of this moment, the cabinet on this side is not convinced that there had been excessive misappropriation or any mismanagement of funds, other than not budgeting properly as they should have throughout the last, at least, three and a half years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister committed to finding out how much the accounting firm was paid for its work. Can the minister tell us today how much this firm was paid? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I don't have the information as yet but that information, once I have it, will be prepared. Our officials were really quite busy with other matters this morning. They even got up for a meeting at seven o'clock this morning. So once I have that information, I will be announcing it in the House. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another finding in the report is that the theft of housing materials has been identified as a problem. As the minister

will recall from previous budget sessions, I was pushing for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to build secure storage facilities in our communities. Can the minister indicate what steps the Nunavut Housing Corporation will take to address these issues and how many communities presently have secure storage areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we need to be fair with many of our communities. As the member knows, not all communities can store that amount of materials when they come in to particular communities. When they arrive in places... these are huge facilities. You would have to have a large square footage of fences or whatnot to store it at. Once the contractors take possession of it, they are normally responsible for security, but I can look into the fact whether or not communities throughout Nunavut actually have that. My experience says that there are very few secured fences throughout Nunavut. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 450 – 3(2): Tourism Deposit Assurance Program**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation today.

Earlier this month, the minister's department announced that it had revoked the outfitter's licence for a

company operating in the Kivalliq. I want to make it perfectly clear that I am not questioning the department's investigation process or its position to revoke the licence of this particular operator. However, I am concerned about Nunavut's reputation as a destination of choice for tourists as it may be damaged with the lost dollars for the tourists who want to spend in good faith as tourists for our territory.

Section 3.1 of the *Travel and Tourism Act* allows the minister to establish a Tourist Deposit Assurance Program. Under this program, the minister would have the discretion to reimburse deposits lost by people in these kinds of circumstances. I checked this morning and the Nunavut Tourism's own website advertises this program and assures tourists that they are protected.

My question is this: will the minister consider applications for reimbursement made by people who lost their deposits as a result of this operator being shut down by the government, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. As you know, last August, there was a suspension of an outfitter's licence and immediately after that there was an investigation by the department. I share his concerns that we've got to protect Nunavut's tourism industry and at that point, that's exactly what the department is doing. In this case, we're trying to protect people, tourism, tourists, and the reputation of Nunavut,

and that's why these actions were taken by the department.

The other part of the question is that there is an adjustment fund that may be run through the tourism association, but I'll get back to the member on the specifics and the details of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I understand that this program is run at the discretion of the minister, so I'm hoping that the minister will assure tourists who want to come our way that their deposits are protected.

I just want the minister to respond for these particular tourists who did nothing wrong, they want to spend their money in our territory, and perhaps they should be compensated by this government for their loss as they were no longer able to come to our territory because of the government's actions.

So will the minister assure this House and tourists who come our way that they are protected by compensating these good citizens who wanted to come to our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Again I do have to state that within the department, we try and protect the tourists out there. Whatever necessary action that we take, as in

everything else, does have consequences. The tourists may have lost some of the dollars that they have put in for this tour. Just like everything else, there are consequences when there is some sort of action taken to protect tourists and Nunavummiut.

I will check further into this. If there is an adjustment fund, I may not be aware of that. For the most part, just like anywhere else, any other tourist in the world, when you travel, you get your insurance. You buy insurance for your travel to wherever you're going. I'm sure that these tourists had done that.

The suspension of the licence which eventually led to the revocation of the licence did have some negative impacts to our tourism association and for Nunavut as a whole, including our department. It's our responsibility to make sure that whatever we do up here in Nunavut for tourism is safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to assure the member that I'm not questioning the wisdom of the decision that was made to take away the licence of the operator.

My concern first and foremost for tourists who want to come our way is we should assure them that their dollars are safe and in the event that their visit is cancelled by our government, they will be compensated so that they can continue to come and visit and spend their hard-earned dollars in our territory.

Can the minister come forward with a decision on this matter sooner rather than later? Our reputation as a territory of choice is being put to question through this particular act.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the last several months, we have made some changes within my department to bring the profile of tourism up in Nunavut.

Although this was an unfortunate incident, an unfortunate situation, under the *Nunavut Tourism Act*, we do have authority to suspend and revoke licences. That's a matter of safety for the tourists who come up here into Nunavut. I will check and get back to the member on an adjustment fund that may or may not exist within the department for the Nunavut Tourism Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will quote from the Nunavut Tourism website that's up today. "If you want help about losing your money, there is an assurance program put in place," it assures visitors who are coming our way, and there is a 1-866 Nunavut number for citizens who have lost their money to call to get assistance. I am troubled that this website is up and the minister responsible for this particular assurance program is not aware of it.

So I hope that the minister can be briefed quickly by his officials and make sure that this program is running properly so that visitors who want to come to Nunavut are assured that if there is activity that takes place that they have no control over and the government takes away the licence of an operator for whatever reason, their money is safe and that they are welcome to our territory without that problem hanging over our heads as a territory. It could make it a lot easier for tourists to come to our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I don't think there was a question there, but I'll give you a chance to respond, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is absolutely right. There are always some issues that arise. A situation like this was unfortunate. If there is an adjustment fund for tourism to protect their money after paying for an excursion in Nunavut, I'm not aware of that, but I will check with my officials and make sure that there is some protection like that for tourism that goes into Nunavut.

But I do have to assure the member that for most tourists who come up here or anywhere else into the world, as tourists, they usually do get their insurance purchased beforehand before they go into any other country. I'm not saying that these tourists had done that, but for the most part, that's an actual thing that every tourist does is get their insurance before they leave their home country for such an event and excursion like this into our part of the country.



Mr. Speaker, I will double-check and make sure that the website is up to date and is correct, with relevant information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 451 – 3(2): Support for Statistics**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, October 20, was World Statistics Day. The Government of Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics is located in my home community of Pangnirtung, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the individuals in that office and their hard work on behalf of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Premier and Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, who is responsible for the bureau of statistics.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has decided to stop using the long-form census. The detailed level of information collected by the census was a very useful tool to show the federal government why Nunavut needs additional supports to address critical social needs, such as overcrowding, poverty, and the loss of language.

Can the minister advise this House whether or not she has formally asked the Prime Minister of Canada to reconsider his position on the long-form census? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Premier of Nunavut and also Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking this question. It is something that is very important and I've had dialogues with the minister in Ottawa who is responsible for the bureau of statistics. It also touches up on such social issues as housing, health, overcrowding, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good decision-making relies on good, high-quality information. With the potential loss of important data being provided by Statistics Canada, has the minister considered increasing resources and capacity at the Pangnirtung Bureau of Statistics? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, we have not studied on whether we have adequate capacity, but we can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. I

would like to get assurance from the government that she will look into it.

(interpretation ends) Recent population estimates released by Statistics Canada show that Nunavut has experienced the highest population growth of all provinces and territories across Canada since April 2010. The demographic breakdown of our population will affect the demand for programs and services. Can the minister confirm that the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics will have the adequate resources to analyze such factors as trends in population growth across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the Government of Nunavut, we also have advocates. We were dealing with Statistics Canada. At this point in time, perhaps to site this example, we just reviewed the Housing Corporation inspections. This will continue the spirit of cooperation and collaboration between the statistics bureau and the Government of Nunavut. They also worked together when they delivered Canadian statistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to addressing Nunavut's needs for high-quality and complete statistical information and provide an update to Members of the

Legislative Assembly on what steps she has taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to statistics and in trying to determine data related to Inuit, such as lack of housing, lack of education, and health issues, all these issues are important. Whenever we are making plans, we use these statistics to provide our arguments. I will continue to monitor it to ensure that it proceeds smoothly. That's my commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 452 – 3(2): The Recent Audit of the Nunavut Housing Trust**

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

My questions are in regard to the review of the Nunavut Housing Trust and the audit that members have been asking questions about for the last couple of days. Your department paid for this audit report and from some of the comments you made, it sounds like you guys are happy with the outcome of the report. Is this the final step in terms of what your department will be doing with this report? Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think we need to go back a bit to the spring session. During the spring session, there were pretty strong feelings about whether or not there were massive missing funds or whatnot, or whether or not there might have been inappropriate actions taken by some former corporate officials or whatnot, and it was agreed by all Members of the House that there should be a special audit.

There were actually two audits that the Minister of Finance directed. One was the regular financial controls audit, which indicated that they follow the usual standards, and they were given a clean audit with respect to the standards that normally apply to the accounting firms. So that will likely be tabled by my colleague today, the Minister of Finance.

But in terms of the other broader management audit, I believe that the auditors confirmed that there were flawed budgeting processes that were used in relation to the Nunavut Housing Trust, and these particular flaws were indicated by the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new management team. They cooperated with this particular auditing firm and helped with the recommendations as they found them.

Today, I can say to you that the report has proven to be very useful in correcting some of the weaknesses particularly with the financial controls and budgeting, but we are far from over yet. It's not over yet. The financial officials are in Arviat and this particular split situation is really not helping the corporation to be fully able to manage day-to-day requirements in shaping the financial systems in place.

That's all I can say. We will continue to correct what has been missing and use that report to strengthen the financial controls. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to some of the questions that some of the other MLAs had been asking, you had mentioned that an action plan for the corporation was made from the report, but the question that wasn't asked was: when will this occur or what [are the] timelines in terms of when will the action plan be completed? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the management and financial controls, the issues that D&T recommended are now being implemented by the Housing Corporation and exactly how long it will take is really a question that involves whether or not the staff positions should be transferred here or not. The cabinet has not decided on that issue yet because there are certain things that we have to consider before doing so and it will be brought to the cabinet agenda before too long.

There are other broader issues that will be worked on in component stages. I use the word component because I don't believe they can be solved in one stroke of a pen, if I may use that word. That involves the governance system, the governance structure, as well as the management improvements to address some of the actual controls that we

needed as well as the project management.

So these will be, again, brought to the cabinet and, at the moment, we are drafting these work plans as we speak. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that said, to me, it raises a few concerns.

The minister, in one of his replies, just said today that three and a half years of bad budgeting has occurred and not everything is implemented. We're not sure if we have the human resource people in place to follow through. The action plan is not complete. We have a budget before us in Committee of the Whole. How can the minister guarantee that this budget is not a bad budget? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the member knows quite well the report that he has with him. All of the flaws that were contributing to this particular situation had been reviewed and brought pretty well up to date through the various assistances made by the auditors, including the Auditor General of Canada, who submitted a number of recommendations to the Housing Corporation.

Therefore, the other day I used the word whether or not the Nunavut Housing Corporation is looking into every rock and find any weaknesses that have not

been found. For the first time, I think if you read the report correctly, the cost to completion budget has been instituted in various controls and budget processes of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and that was never done before, these costs to completion.

In the Nunavut Housing Corporation, if I may expand a bit, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of checks and balances in place, including the Department of Finance, which means the Financial Management Board must also concur with the budget that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is submitting and implementing. Whenever there is a new contract, it goes back to the Minister of Finance and his officials and analysts are checking whether or not the Nunavut Housing Corporation is actually sticking to the budget to completion to complete all of the units that we have right now.

But there are still some decisions that have to be made and these are not being overlooked. It is just that scheduling is one delay factor that we are having right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I guess that just leaves the last question. Can the minister then, with all of the controls and everything put in place, with it being put to the finance minister to make sure there are no problems with the budget, guarantee that there will be no more overspending on the Nunavut Housing Trust program and the CMHC affordable housing trust program? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very important question. I certainly will not deviate from the fact that Nunavutmiut need these units. All of these units must be completed that Nunavutmiut require. The comment that we have seen in public postings is it's very important to complete these units.

Your constituents would appreciate, I'm sure, having new facilities, new housing completed before too long. We are committed to that, but I cannot promise the member whether or not I will be the minister after the leadership forum. I am going to have to leave it with him.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

#### **Question 453 – 3(2): Treatment Programs for Nunavut**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was just laughing at a little incident.

I would like to raise a question to the Minister of Health, Hon. Tagak Curley. He seems to be on a never-ending list. He is the Minister responsible for Housing and he is also the Minister of Health, which are very important departments.

Mr. Speaker, we had requested some employees for healthy living who would be working for that program. The request was very understandable and it falls outside the healthy living standards. Can the minister inform the members

which standard they will be using when they are dealing with healing as it pertains to Nunavut and Nunavummiut?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends)  
Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I didn't understand correctly, help me out. With regard to healing, what I can answer with this particular question is the year before, the federal government allocated funding for healthy living and they worked with the regional Inuit associations to deliver that program.

With respect to actual healing practices, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding was cut by the federal government. Once the funding was cut, a lot of the funding that was allocated for abused people and residential students... there is still a bit of funding left over, but mainly the funding was cut off.

I'm not sure how the Kitikmeot has operated that particular healing program. I know that in the Kivalliq, they use the airlines and they offered healing programs. They also have a men's group where they meet a couple of times a week. We've had to deal with these on our own.

As a department, we will be announcing several programs, such as the Suicide Prevention Strategy. I will probably be announcing that on Monday. With respect to the program we are offering, we will be fixing up that program. We have been meeting with Nunavut Tunngavik and their officials.

With regard to that question, that's all I can answer. In regard to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, we haven't added any funding to that program. That's all I can respond to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask my secondary question which is in regard to an issue I have noted previously. I have been a social worker in Taloyoak for a fairly long time and some of my clients with whom I have worked with have had to go to court. Prior to my election to this legislature, I dealt with many issues that my colleagues have identified as an issue.

It has affected their work since they are quite unhappy with the Nunavut Court system, specifically the prosecutors, who occasionally list conditions for the accused. Some of these conditions include a requirement to undergo healing sessions or alternatively, an anger management course for the accused. When these people are given these conditions, it creates hardship for the social workers. The conditions are listed in the probation order which has to be signed by the person who has to undertake these healing or anger management sessions imposed by the prosecutor.

In our community, in Taloyoak, we do not have any people who are able to provide these services within the community. We have no courses nor do we have a counsellor to provide these services, whether it be healing or anger management. We have no resources

available in the community proper. This issue requires that the minister outline the resources, such as the counsellor who can provide healing or anger management sessions.

Therefore, my question to the minister is: how can we best resolve these issues whereby people have to comply with these conditions in our communities where we do not have the capability? These are important conditions that these people have to follow and comply with since they are part of their probation conditions. Can the minister provide some information on how we can best collaborate on these types of issues where conditions are imposed on people in the communities that have no resources to comply with them? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the member's question, it is very challenging. It is something that we have to procure here in Nunavut. I recall when Mr. Okalik was the Premier that we worked hard to try to get treatment centres here in our territory. This was a priority in the First Assembly as well as the Second Assembly. However, the funding wasn't allocated and these treatment centres never materialized.

I cannot handle questions directed to the Minister of Justice, but I know that the courts have often asked people to undertake such services as counselling. For that reason, I'll try to add this response with regard to the *Child and Family Services Act*. We will try to provide a counsellor to provide

assistance to people in disadvantaged homes.

So in this upcoming year, once the report is completed, which we are assuming will be completed at year-end, I will be discussing this matter with my colleagues as to how much we will allocate towards these treatment centres. My guess is that down the road, this will become clearer. A lot of the concerns we have from the communities will be resolved down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the second supplementary. I recently wrote a letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding a proposal to deliver mobile treatment programs in the two communities in my constituency, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. Has the minister had the opportunity to consider my letter and, if so, what kind of future can we expect? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I will look into that correspondence the member alluded to, but what I can respond with now is that we will speak with the mental health counsellors. I believe that they can offer some healing programs. I believe that there is a worker in Cambridge Bay. I'll speak to my colleague, the Minister of Justice, with regard to people who have been incarcerated and have been offered healing programs.

What I can say is that I will further encourage the director of mental health in Cambridge Bay to work with the people in the communities. I'm not sure exactly how it will be resolved, but I'll speak with my deputy minister to see how long it would take to get a counsellor to visit your communities. So after I look into the timeline, I will be able to provide a more concrete response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We understand that there is a need for culturally appropriate programs to be delivered in our home communities and it has been well recognized even in the south.

Approximately one year ago, the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Mary Simon, called upon the federal government to provide funding for mental wellness programs across the Arctic. Has the Minister of Health and Social Services held any discussions with his federal counterpart on the issue of providing mental health and addictions treatment programs in Nunavut and, if not, will he commit to doing so in the near future? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can speak with the member about this issue; I will contact you later. Perhaps even during our session, I will look into that matter and I will determine which communities require the most immediate assistance.

There are quite a few assistance programs available, especially federal programs, which are usually handled by the regional Inuit associations. The funding we get is generally geared towards aboriginal populations. It's never enough, so we add some funding towards community wellness programs. So we try to use those agencies to request more funding proposals, such as workshops and counselling programs.

So I can look into that matter and perhaps work with the member and determine which communities require the most immediate assistance. I also ensure that I will follow up with you in the correspondence and work with you before the completion of our session to resolve this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 454 – 3(2): Trigger Locks for Nunavummiut**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Member of Justice, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

Has the minister considered supplying trigger locks for Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, and the rest of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Shell. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that I've had discussions with Chief Superintendent McVarnock about firearms safety and one of the

issues that we discussed was the issue of trigger locks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: will the justice department and RCMP cooperate regarding the teaching of firearms safety courses for all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for again asking that very important question. Mr. Speaker, I believe firearms safety training is a federal responsibility, but I've had conversations with my colleague from the Department of Environment about their ability to provide that kind of training in Nunavut. I have also talked about firearms safety, again, with the RCMP. It is a high-profile issue and we're endeavouring to do our best to find a solution to providing training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister, along with the RCMP, consider adopting a safety check for all homes in regard to trigger locks installed on all firearms? The fire department does a similar check on homes regarding fire safety on a yearly basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to commend the RCMP that was in Cape Dorset this week. I believe they are doing a door to door, house to house inspection of that nature. It's a very positive development. The community, I believe, welcomed it. Again it's something that I can't commit the RCMP to do anything, but it's something that I can talk to with the RCMP.

Of course, people don't have to comply. If they voluntarily wish to allow people to come into their houses to do inspections, it's one thing, but you can't just march up to the door and say, "We're coming in." We have to consider those things. So that is something we will continue to discuss and perhaps we will discuss it with the mayors of different communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Schell. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 206 – 3(2): 2009 Annual Report – Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to be able to table the 2009 Annual Report of the Workers' Safety and

Compensation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

#### **Tabled Document 207 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2009**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting report for the year ended March 31, 2009.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Shewchuk.

#### **Tabled Document 208 – 3(2): 2009-2010 Annual Report for Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2009-2010 Annual Report for the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Tabled Document 209 – 3(2): Statement of Expenditures for Nunavut Housing Trust as of April 1, 2006 to February 28, 2010**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Statement of Expenditures for the Nunavut Housing Trust as of April 1, 2006 to February 28, 2010. This is the Deloitte and Touche

audit. It is an unqualified audit opinion.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

**Tabled Document 210 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Review of Nunavut Housing Trust**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Review of the Nunavut Housing Trust. This is the second part of the Deloitte and Touche assignment. It is a report. I note with admiration that my colleagues on the other side of the House have already read this report in great detail and I am pleased to table it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice**

**Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Notice**

**Bill 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three notices of motions for first reading of bills. If you permit, I'll read all three while I am standing.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, that Bill 44, *An Act to Amend Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time.

The second notice, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, 2010, that Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*, be read for the first time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, that Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 40 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-  
2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 41 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
3, 2010-2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 41, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 39 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-  
2010 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion has passed and Bill 39 has been referred to Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 40 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-  
2011 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the

Government of Nunavut to defray the operations and maintenance expenses for the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion has passed and Bill 40 has been referred to Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 41 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 41, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut and reduces certain appropriations to defray the capital expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion has passed and Bill 41 has been referred to Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Thank you. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of

the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 38, 39, 40, and 41 with Mr. Schell 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 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:42*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following to deal with: Bills 38, 39, 40, and Bill 41. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Sorry, there was no trans... I'm getting all translations except English on the intercom here and I have no idea what you just said. Thank you.

**Chairman:** We will start that all over. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following to deal with: Bills 38, 39, 40, and 41. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 38 and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Education. If time permits, we will then proceed to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we continue with the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2011-2012 – Nunavut Housing  
Corporation – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree that Minister Curley's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the staff to the witness table.

For the *Hansard* record, please introduce your staff, Mr. Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is the President of the Housing Corporation, Alain Barriault, and to my left is Lori Kimball, our Finance Comptroller for the Housing Corporation. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We were still on the opening comments there. I have one comment to bring out and then I won't be asking any more questions in regard to yesterday. It's in regard to ask the President of the Housing Corporation. Yesterday, I mentioned to the minister in regard to apparently there was two sent to Arviat, a SIP unit and a stick built unit, that were supposed to have been constructed. They were going to time as to what the difference in the construction time was. Were these ever completed? You can go ahead, Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, these units have not been built yet. They are in the process of being tendered at this time. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more questions on the opening comments. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not really a question but an observation that I want noted. With respect to homeownership units, there were quite a few projects that were supposed to be completed and if Nunavummiut will want to own their own house, it's very beneficial to see that being offered.

However, in the smaller communities, it seems that the homeownership programs have pretty much sled on to the wayside. As people find out more about the issues, it might have stopped a lot of people from applying for homeownership. The problem is that when they want to sell their home, there's not much of a market in the smaller communities and their units remain unsold. In the larger communities, their units are sold quite rapidly.

My question to the minister is whether this has been observed and whether he will be looking at possible solutions for the situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. That's an excellent question. It is quite obvious that we need to focus on these types of issues, such as mortgages. Mortgages in the smaller communities are often harder to get

approved. I will work with my officials and perhaps we can schedule a tour with the various banks here in Iqaluit.

There are a number of banks now and they compete with one another for these products. Mortgages are just another product for sale. People in the smaller communities often expect to be handed money when, in fact, mortgages are for sale. For that reason, I think we have to educate the general public about mortgages and how you can negotiate between the different banking institutions. If there aren't any training courses available, perhaps we should put together a manual or even have tours going to the smaller communities on this subject. That would be my approach and perspective in trying to create something of that nature.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has dealt with homeownership for quite a while, so I will look into their archives. I know for a fact that most of the correspondence is with respect to down payment and I am sure there's assistance offered, but as I stated earlier, sometimes it's much easier to conduct a tour to relay that message. I would like the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to explain as to how they have dealt with this issue in the past so that you can understand it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is aware of the issue of resale and markets in smaller communities. That's something that we are looking at within our housing programs, but it is a reality in most communities that there is not a big retail

market for private homeownership. It is something that we don't have an immediate solution for. We also recognize that in many communities, what the market will bear in terms of the price for a house is often times less than the cost of constructing a new house. There are some challenges there and that is something we are working towards addressing. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy that this particular situation has been noted. I want to see the minister's comments implemented since it would assist those people who would want to own their own homes.

Some of the people are left in the dark, so they do not always know what they are getting into and this has caused issues in the past. Not all people experience that. I believe it was in the spring when I made a Member's Statement about this issue. I wanted it noted that in the smaller communities, you require a mortgage in order to construct a personal home.

However, one note of interest is that construction costs are increasing. It is already causing a hardship to people in the smaller communities. The banks don't like to deal with units that may or may not be sold. Sometimes they don't seem to want mortgages from the smaller communities because they know that in the larger centres, more units will be sold and that forms part of the problem.

I just wanted the challenges we are facing in Nunavut understood, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think that was just a comment, but, Minister Curley, if you want to make a statement, go ahead.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Johnny Ningeongan's comments are understandable in that context. I know we have to work harder to try and offer these services. I will talk with my officials as to how we can make more progress in that sector. I will also try to speak with the banks with respect to Nunavut. The banks seem to be focussed more towards long-term employees who can pay their bills.

With respect to these housing construction projects, perhaps the small contractors in the communities could complete these units without incurring more expense since shipping labourers into communities increase these expenses. We will have to review the programs we offer to these contractors, especially when the larger construction projects are easier to contract out. I will definitely speak about this issue with my officials. Thank you. That's a very good question.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to raise this question on the second page of the ministers' opening comments. He mentions the 285 units under the Affordable Housing Initiative in Nunavut. We have been informed and note that in some of the communities, the units are getting the flooring done.

They are also working on side panelling and the roofing.

A recent event occurred in our community whereby two out of the three units did not have the roofing or panelling completed, although all three units were standing. A vicious storm occurred that tore many panels from these units, which were blown away. Some of these panels were damaged when they landed on the land. I would like to find out if you have heard about this incident and whether this project will go ahead even though some materials have been lost or destroyed. I wonder if there will be an update on what is happening with those two housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the first I have heard about this incident. I will speak with the president and clarify it while we are in session. We will try to provide more information once we have checked into this matter. We did note that there was a strong storm both in Pangnirtung and Iqaluit. I believe you stated that there were perhaps two multiplexes that lost the panelling. Am I correct?

**Chairman:** Thank you. I guess this is a little bit off the topic of the opening comments, but you can continue, Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I heard from a person boarding at my place and he relayed the story about the damages. I did not determine whether the units

themselves were destroyed, but it was the side panelling that was blown off and damaged. Obviously our community really needs these units because we have a housing shortage.

I was home prior to my trip down for the session and I spoke to the construction workers. I am very happy that the minister keeps us informed and he has stated that if construction companies in the communities can construct these units, it would be cheaper. I totally concur with that. In the old days, when houses were first constructed, no one was shipped in to assist. The community would construct these units with the local labour pool and the expenses did not go so high. I want to see this approach continued. This would allow the income to be retained in the community. It can provide more benefits if the local companies get the contracts.

However, some of my constituents who are working on these projects also stated that most workers brought into the community are brand new. In some ways, they were not as capable as the people from Pangnirtung. Leopa Akpalialuk even noted that he has been involved since 1979 in constructing units and he can do all of the work, but he is just being treated as a labourer and here he has been in construction for years. The labourers assumed they would be involved more. These people are very knowledgeable, but they get treated like less skilled labourers. When these imported workers come in, they take advantage of some of the local people.

So I will ask the minister to commit to getting more construction contracts out to the local companies. We now have a local certified company that can bid for a

contract, although we may still need to import certified foremen or managers. For example, they could subcontract the side panelling. I am not sure how they pronounce it in Inuktitut, the side panels. They had to import people to do the side panelling and yet, in Pangnirtung, we have many Inuit capable of doing that. They incur extra costs because they have to pay for the airfare and the hotel. What we cannot understand is that they incur all of these extra costs.

Are they still importing workers when they could hire local labourers? I want to voice that we have to utilize our local labourers. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I would just like to remind everybody that we're dealing with general comments on the 2011-12 capital estimates. This is kind of getting off the topic a little bit, but I'll give Tagak Curley a chance to respond to that, and then I'll move on to Mr. Okalik. Thank you.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you. If I sidestep anything, I know you will remind me. With respect to your comments, I appreciate those comments. Once we have surpassed these barriers, our future will be brighter. Here in Nunavut, many of our people are undergoing training in most of our communities.

It is quite true that with respect to contracted labourers, this government has to fix that issue, especially for projects in the future. I know for a fact that the government will have to deal with this issue because we're basically throwing away money to southerners and southern companies. When we do a contract, the majority just goes down



south. They don't pay taxes in Nunavut and they don't do a lot of shopping in Nunavut either. Due to this and other reasons, we will have to revisit the employment and contracting issues, especially with regulations.

There are a lot of companies now in the communities that can do subcontracting, so I think that's an issue I will really review closely. I'm not sure how many more years this practice will continue, but some of the companies are very large and they are able to bid on many contracts. We could also do a negotiated contract between the company and we could do a sole sourced contract. We have a lot of options as it relates to contracts.

I'm not sure how long I'll be in this portfolio, but as long as I am in cabinet, I will keep bringing up this issue. We have to allow the small communities to develop their capabilities because they have to be able to stand on their own. So when we look at the bonding requirements, they do present a barrier, but there is always room for improvement in all of these fields.

I would like to thank you for commenting on that and I totally agree with your comments. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was the chairman, these questions were raised and we encouraged the department to check into these issues. We didn't get an adequate response yesterday as to what the situation is with these 700 plus units and how many have been completed, so I am wondering if we can now get an

answer. I would first like to know the current status of these units. I know for a fact that a majority have been completed, but we didn't get an answer on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I wanted to talk about the status of construction in the communities yesterday. I know that we made that information available, but it was just the construction schedule. We were just following that. I cannot say what percentage has been completed.

I said yesterday that we wanted to complete it, but apparently the Inuktitut version wasn't quite completed in time for this meeting. The information is available and I will try to submit it tomorrow. In either process, it is still important. I would like to ask the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to speak to this issue. Once the information that was requested has been provided with the proper translation, we will provide it tomorrow. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have specific information for every community on a project by project basis. That information is tracked through our district offices. As Minister Curley has noted, we are just waiting now to get the translations so that we can table this information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before the information is available, I suppose I cannot really ask questions on this matter.

With regard to the opening comments of the minister, the Nunavut Housing Corporation set aside \$10.9 million towards the \$50 million shortfall. I'm sure they will have to look for other ways to raise funds to try to complete the project. Have they considered trying to reduce the construction costs? That's the question I wanted to raise.

We have seen here in Iqaluit that there are a lot of people who may have lived on the street, but once they get a job, their life turns around. I believe that can happen in every community. If these people are given a job, it will reduce the costs of the expenditures we have incurred, which is still growing. You could even increase the social assistance. It could be a training program for a lot of people who are just sitting around in their homes when they could be receiving training instead.

I wanted to ask this question: have you thought of a lot of ways and options to try to meet this \$50 million shortfall? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood his question correctly... I'm sorry, I have an itchy throat.

If I understand it correctly, when he referred to the \$50 million that we have to use again, we have identified \$10.9 million towards that, but we are still

asking about the \$40 million that we have to raise. As I stated yesterday, the Minister of Finance will be bringing this issue up. During the committee meeting... .

If we don't want to incur a deficit, we discussed options. With some of the carryover capital project funding that was supposed to be started last year, we have set aside quite a large amount. I believe that about \$90 million is set aside for capital projects that were supposed to be constructed and the money has just been sitting.

The Minister of Finance could include that in his consideration, but the minister will speak to his own issues since he is the Minister of Finance. Perhaps we could carry the deficit, even though the cabinet did not want to incur a deficit. So these are the options we will look at, but I cannot state that we will do such-and-such event when the Department of Finance is dealing with this issue.

One thing that we did agreed upon is that we will try to ensure that we raise the \$50 million, but my colleague, Minister Peterson, will report on that situation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to be helpful, so I'm trying to fully encourage the minister and I'm very happy that they managed to find \$10.9 million.

Perhaps he can work with the Minister of Education to look at how we can enlist social assistance recipients to work towards completing these units. That's a possibility where we could get the social

assistance recipients to work on the housing, maybe by increasing their assistance.

But even getting trained and being given an opportunity to learn new skills voluntarily, I have done it myself, where I have volunteered for training and I thought I wasn't learning anything, but I found that I learned quite a bit. So even when you are doing some labour, it still allows you to learn.

So I am further encouraging the minister to work with his colleagues to try to raise the amount. If the departments work together, even as separate departments, they can look at all possible options to try to bring down the deficit and, at the same time, meet the goal of providing more units.

So I would like to further encourage the minister, prior to this issue being resolved, that he should look at his own options. I just wanted to identify this option to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think that was just a comment, but if you want to respond to it, Mr. Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you. Yes, I appreciate your support in resolving this issue. The Minister of Finance made a statement and I also made a statement that yes, it's a very large fund, but we have also noted that housing is a priority and these units have to be completed and finalized, and our communities need the units, so we are thankful that we do have these units.

But we will take your comments into consideration and I thank you for

providing possible solutions. That is it for now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list and now we will proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page J-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$23,894,000. Details are on J-4 and J-5. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions regarding staff housing. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's substantiation sheets for its new staff housing projects indicate that the cost of new staff housing units is less than the cost of new public housing units. Why is this the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, I'm just trying to get to the right page so I can answer that question appropriately.

Within the substantiation sheet, we are looking at \$380,000 per unit in a duplex, which would be \$760,000 for a duplex. That actually ties to the Nunavut Housing Trust report as put out by Deloitte and Touche in terms of our costing. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You refer that you're using the numbers as put out by that report. Can we expect any significant cost overruns on the staff housing units that are going to be built? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know on the budgets going forward that they have been adjusted to reflect the actual cost that we were incurring under the housing trust. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to Sanikiluaq in particular, can you tell me the status of the staff housing units that are being built in the community? It's my understanding that the new school is supposed to be completed in December, and maybe even operational by January, yet the new staff housing is not being built yet. I know, at the present time, we have teachers who are coming in from the south and living together when they don't know each other because of lack of staff housing. So if you can update us when the new staff housing will be built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff housing five-plex in Sanikiluaq has not started construction yet. The last of the material for that five-plex is scheduled to arrive on next week's barge. We are looking at other options to ensure that there is housing available to allow for the start-up of the school in December or January, and we have been in contact with QSO to ensure that we have solutions that will work in the interim. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question: are we anticipating a spring start-up for the construction of these units or will the construction start after the next sealift? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not know the answer at this point. We are hoping to be able to accommodate a fall start-up, but we don't have an answer for that one at this moment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have anybody else on the list here. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to follow up on the member from Sanikiluaq's question to Mr. Barriault. You got me suddenly interested in asking a question about options that you are looking at. Could you provide that information to us, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the options we are looking at are vacant public housing, vacant staff housing that has been held for competitions that have not been filled yet, private rental options, as well as hotel options. We are also looking at using material from other housing construction in order to allow us to get an earlier start while waiting for material to come in. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have anybody else on my list here. We will go back to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$23,894,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Now we will go back to J-2. Detail of Expenditures. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Detail of Expenditures. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$23,894,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree that we have concluded with the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the minister have any closing comments?

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, I appreciate the frank discussion. I want to assure the members, all of you, that we will keep you posted if there are any changes in either budget or scheduling delays. We will be available to provide you with any information that we can. The discussions that we have had during the last couple of days have been useful and I want to respectfully acknowledge your contribution. They are important to us.

I want to assure you that we are available at any time because we still are going to have a busy year and a half yet to try and complete the units before

some of the federal deadlines are come upon us. That would be March 31, 2012. So we will do our best, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the help you have just given us. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I also want to thank you and your officials for showing up. I am sure this is not going to be the end of the questions for the Housing Corporation.

Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses and the minister out.

Thank you. Now I would like to ask Minister Tootoo, responsible for the Department of Education, to make his opening remarks.

### **Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Education – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to be here today to discuss the proposed 2011-12 Department of Education capital projects budget.

What I said during my appearance at the standing committee remains relevant as education remains a key participant in the Government of Nunavut's capital program. The department has a significant capital presence in our 25 communities having 43 schools across Nunavut, which represents a considerable capital investment in educational infrastructure in every community. As I indicated during standing committee, we have 8,667 students from kindergarten to grade 12 in Nunavut – 1,510 in the Kitikmeot region, 2,889 in the Kivalliq region, and 4,268 in the Qikiqtani region.

The Department of Education's proposed capital budget for 2011-12 is \$10,152,000, with an ongoing project budget of \$50,190,000 from 2012-13 to 2015-16. This budget reflects the realities of our GN-wide fiscal position.

Mr. Chairman, the \$10 million for this upcoming fiscal year will be divided into a number of projects. Our one new project is an addition to Repulse Bay's Tusarvik School. The school is currently overcrowded, with an enrolment of 272 students, or 103 percent utilization of its capacity of 263 students. Mr. Chairman, the planning stage for this initiative will cost approximately \$50,000 for this upcoming year.

Mr. Chairman, the department initiated a program to assess all schools during the 2010-11 fiscal year to address the current conditions of each school as a result of emergency and urgent situations over the past few years requiring immediate attention. As a proactive measure, this assessment focuses on both special needs and the general health and conditions of our facilities. 13 out of our 43 schools have been assessed to date. The assessment team is taking longer due to the condition of the schools. The original plan was to spend one day per school. It is actually taking two to four days as the assessment team is making on-site repairs and mechanical adjustments during the assessment process. Some of the common issues they are finding are:

- Poor general maintenance (broken belts, leaks, missing filters);
- Out-of-date inspections on safety equipment, such as fire

extinguishers and sprinkler systems;

- Lack of barrier-free access for our special needs students and staff;
- Out-of-date inspections on vital equipment, such as boilers and generators; and
- Poor maintenance on the school air handling units.
- Other issues include heating and ventilation systems that need to be cleaned and balanced, heating issues and safety issues, such as stairs, railings, barrier-free washrooms and access for special needs students and staff.

Projects identified will go to tender and be coordinated by the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, we have budgeted \$1.5 million for the ongoing life cycle repairs initiative for our 43 schools in 2011-12. This initiative allows our department to identify issues within our schools and prepare a repair or replacement program in a proactive manner. Projects falling into this category are approved by the deputy minister.

For example, carpeting and flooring were replaced in Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Cape Dorset, and Hall Beach schools to make them more environmentally safe and healthy for our students. The total cost for these four schools was \$555,000 for materials and installation.

Boilers were delivered this sealift season and are being replaced this fall in the Hall Beach and Pond Inlet schools to help alleviate heating issues. The cost for these projects is \$390,000.

Mr. Chairman, the department has allocated \$1.5 million from ongoing life cycle to assess the current health and building code issues in Qiqirtaq High School in Gjoa Haven. This project will identify and effect repairs to health and safety issues during the 2011-12 fiscal year as the renovation project has been deferred to the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the department also has a minor capital budget. This funding allows for a variety of small capital projects to occur across the territory. Projects are primarily health/safety related but include projects not identified in the capital planning process. Projects falling into this category are, again, approved by the deputy minister.

During past fiscal years, the following minor capital projects were undertaken: Office renovation in Cambridge Bay was \$90,000; Iqaluit-Aqsarniit-Playground Paving was \$11,000; Chesterfield Inlet-Victor Sammurtoq School-Funding shortfall for the special needs washroom was \$6,000; Nunavut-Core Solutions-Capital Database was \$8,000; and the Rankin Inlet-Office communication wiring was \$28,000.

Inuksuk High School will also receive continued improvements and renovations during the 2011-12 year. The planning for the summer of 2011 has begun and will include floor replacement and painting. The Department of Education has budgeted \$3,450,000 for this project for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, as an update to the Inuksuk High School renovation project, the work continued on schedule this past summer and included the:

- Renovation of the orange pod section of the school;
- Installation of a new chair lift for special needs students and staff;
- Installation of new entrance doors;
- Installation of a new special needs washroom; and
- Installation of new communication wiring.

Mr. Chairman, the department gathers information from hamlet, district education authorities, communities, schools, and the Department of Community and Government Services to develop, plan, and manage our capital properties. Through our comprehensive facilities database, we are able to analyze school utilization and their physical condition along with planned program requirements to determine our capital requirements.

Mr. Chairman, the department reviews requests for school buses each year. There has also been a significant increase in the costs of providing busing services in our communities. After our review last year, we provided a new bus for Pangnirtung as well as a special needs bus for Gjoa Haven. Pond Inlet also received a new bus by way of a transfer from Arctic Bay.

The department has sent out a regional survey asking if there are any new bus requests. Mr. Chairman, at this time, we have not received any requests for this fiscal year. In the event that there are no requests, we will recommend a replacement program to update, or replace, or repair our older buses.

We are noticing a substantial increase in costs of operating buses. The

Department of Education has received submissions on tenders this past year ranging from a 6 percent to a 105 percent increase over the 2009 operating costs. This will undoubtedly factor into our budgeting practices over the next few years.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to update my colleagues on several ongoing projects to improve and upgrade our learning facilities.

The addition to the Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset is scheduled for completion this fall. The Department of Education has budgeted \$50,000 for the upcoming fiscal year to cover off any warranty issues.

Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq was too small for the number of students attending the school. Construction on the new school began last summer and we anticipate completion in December of this year. Again, the department has budgeted \$50,000 for the upcoming fiscal year to cover off any warranty issues.

Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq required an addition and renovation to the existing school. Construction on the renovation began in the summer of 2009 and we expect it to be completed this fall. The Department of Education has budgeted \$742,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, I have said this in the past and I want to re-emphasize it now: we cannot spend more than our means. As a government, we must work within the budget framework. There are many implications to project costs, including staffing, associated housing

requirements, building utilities, and ongoing maintenance that must also be considered when we look at creating new facilities, as well as adding to existing structures.

Mr. Chairman, again I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Department of Education's capital budget for 2011-12 and the subsequent four years. I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Minister Tootoo, please introduce your witness.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Ms. Kathy Okpik, she's the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education. No stranger to the Members of this House, unlike the individual on my right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Education's proposed 2011-12 capital budget of \$10,152,000.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2011-12 include seven community-specific projects which are ongoing from previous years and five projects for which no specific communities or regions are identified.

Members note that final year funding is being requested for three community-specific projects in Cape Dorset, Igloolik, and Sanikiluaq. The school renovation project in Iqaluit is an ongoing multi-year project that can only progress during the summer when there are no students on the premises. Meanwhile, the school addition project in Qikiqtarjuaq is in its final year of construction and the school addition project in Repulse Bay will go to the design stage. Although these projects all appear to be proceeding according to schedule, the standing committee encourages the minister to keep members and communities informed and up to date with any information regarding delays or changes in plans.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to have concerns with the department's lack of communication with communities and district education authorities on the status of projects, especially those identified in the 2012-16 five-year capital plan, and appreciates the minister's commitment to address this issue.

For example, the school renovation project in Gjoa Haven first got underway in 2004 but has been delayed a number of times since then. Several materials and supplies that have been ordered for the project are already on site, but as the project is not scheduled to proceed in the upcoming 2011-12 fiscal year, the materials will be at risk of damage or even vandalism in the interim. Meanwhile, urgent renovation needs remain unaddressed. Although members recognize that the scope of this project has evolved over time, the continual changes to the project's timeline can lead to confusion and misunderstanding at the community level. This must be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of adequate housing for teaching staff has been raised in a number of Nunavut communities. While the standing committee recognizes that there is considerable pressure to meet housing needs across the territory, members encourage the minister to work with his cabinet colleagues to identify and prioritize situations where the lack of housing has an impact on service delivery, especially in such critical areas as education and health.

Standing committee members appreciated receiving from the minister a breakdown of recent minor capital expenditures as well as a listing of some of the smaller projects that have been undertaken with this type of funding over recent years. However, the standing committee recommends that the minister and his officials ensure that such details are included in documentation, such as the substantiation sheets which are provided for standing committee review.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is in full support of the department's ongoing life cycle repairs project which addresses repair issues, many of which relate to health and safety concerns in a timely manner. Members encourage the minister and his officials to work with communities and DEAs to continue to identify where such repairs are necessary.

The standing committee recognizes that the Department of Education is taking a proactive role with its schools assessment project and its special needs assessment project. Members recognize that the rate of progress in this area is directly affected by the number of repairs and adjustments that must be made as the assessments are underway. Members appreciate the minister's commitment to provide the committee with the final results of both assessments once they are complete.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. According to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for coming to the witness table today. In your opening comments on one of your unnumbered pages, it says that you are doing condition ratings on schools throughout Nunavut and you have 13 out of 43 schools done. When do you anticipate completing all of the school assessments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member because that used to drive me nuts, not having page numbers on there. My copy has page numbers on, so I'm sorry if yours don't and I'll make sure that that doesn't happen again.

Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that we have four more schools that are going to be completed with the assessment by January and hopefully by next fall, we will have all the rest of the schools completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you identify at this time which communities are complete? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Yes, I can, Mr. Chairman. I just need to find the right tab. As of today, the two schools in Pond Inlet have been assessed, two schools in Cape Dorset, three schools in Rankin Inlet, two schools in Cambridge Bay, two in Baker Lake, and two in

Kugluktuk have been completed to date.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With 13 communities done, that means there are probably another 30 schools to be done and you already stated that it will probably take until late next fall before they are all completed with the assessments. Will you be waiting until the assessment is complete before taking action on any of the conditions that need to be repaired?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we will take action as required, when needed, and has been identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you already have an action plan in place to deal with the conditions of the schools at the present time and, if you don't, when will you have one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The action plan in regard to the schools that have already been assessed, the report is being put together. We're hoping to be able to have that complete within the next month or two. As the next assessments are being done and brought in, they will be processed in a similar fashion. Once the reports are received on the schools, a plan will be

developed to address the problems that have been identified.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I think some of the things and why it is taking so long is because some of the problems that are being identified are being addressed on-site during the inspection. So that's helped too and that's why it is taking a little longer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the assessments that are being done and have been done on the 13 schools, are we finding any major renovation issues to the schools that have been done?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the things that have been identified that they are finding in there just deal with poor maintenance and I outlined them in my opening comments. We found filters that hadn't been changed. I can't remember what community it was, but in one specific school, the building maintainer, when asked by the inspector to go down to the air handling unit, didn't even know where it was. So it was quite obvious that some of the filters looked like they hadn't been changed in quite a number of years. There haven't been major issues that have been found. There have been a lot of little minor things that have been ignored over a number of years.

Some of the things also that they are still looking at, they are finding, in some cases, where there may be some minor adjustments to foundations. Schools

already had a jack up here, a jack up there to level, and keep it on the up and up, if you want to call it that. The air handling units again, you know, about the majority of them have needed to be completely cleaned and rebalanced.

Some of the heating issues; in roughly about 90 percent of the schools that they have looked at, there have been problems with that. Their doors stuck open. There are zone valves that have been closed and other safety issues like stairs and railings that have been addressed, as I pointed out in my opening comments. So those are some of the kind of issues that have been identified and will be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different page of your opening comments, you stated that you have noticed a substantial increase in the cost of operating buses, anywhere from a 6 to 105 percent increase over the 2009 operating year. Can the minister explain why there has been such an increase in the operation cost of buses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are all just the contracts that are in place with the individuals or businesses to offer busing services in the communities. With the cost of doing business in Nunavut now, we have seen your power and fuel rates go up and things like that. So there are a number of factors; I couldn't nail it down to any specific one and any particular circumstance, but it's just a

combination of a number of different issues. All of these are with the private contractors in the communities.

So it's the bids that we are seeing coming in that are coming in much higher than they have been in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question: with regard to the increase in the budgets for busing contracts, would the age of the buses have anything to do with that? Are our buses aging? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that it's not due to the age of the buses. But as I indicated in my opening comments as well, the ones that we have out there, if we don't receive any requests for additional buses, we will be looking at, on a community by community basis, addressing, hopefully proactively, some of the maintenance on these buses for enhancements or repairs on them so that they do last longer and don't cost us more money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have nobody else on my list here for opening comments... oh, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to extend a welcome to the minister and his officials who are at the witness table. Perhaps to start with the opening comments of the minister, on the first page of the comments, it states that in Repulse Bay,

their school is now overcrowded due to the number of students. They are running short of space and I would like to know if this situation will be allowed to fester.

Overcrowding is not something we want to impose on any community, so I would like to know when they are planning to resolve that problem. When do you expect a larger facility or an addition to the existing school? Is it in the short term or not? That will be my first question since the MLA for that community is unable to attend our session today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The school there is in fair condition, but the student enrolments and the population growth necessitate the consideration of an addition. Right now, the school utilization is currently at 108 percent. Like I said, the capacity is 263 students and the enrolment is 285. The department is in the beginning of the process, with the assistance of Community and Government Services, to begin community consultation this fall for the planning stages for the school addition there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his response. In looking at the opening comments, it says 272 students, but he stated 285 enrolments in his response. There are more students in your response to my earlier question

than what you stated in your opening comments.

Is this funding for planning for next year's use? When do you expect to get an addition to that school to make sure that there is enough space for the students? Also, when can you expect to complete that addition in Repulse Bay so that they will know what to expect in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, for the 2011-12 year, there is \$1.2 million for the planning and design of the facility. We are looking at hopefully within the 2012-13 year for the construction phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. I do want to see that occur anywhere in the communities of Nunavut. We do not want to see overcrowded students because we have to protect the students so that they can complete their education. I am finished with my questioning on the opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Mr. Tootoo's opening comments, he was talking about in light of financial situations and stuff like that. We had Minister Curley before us talking about the aging infrastructure of the health centres across the territory. It seems like you are saying the same is

occurring with the infrastructure for the schools across the territory.

Is there some type of a plan in place in terms of what you will be doing to ensure that these schools can be built? There are only two that are going to be. I know one of the top priorities in terms of Arctic Bay is a new high school since it is starting to get pretty crowded. I know Mr. Ningeongan had been asking as well. So is there some type of a long-term plan? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of different factors that the department uses when it prioritizes projects.

Whether it is an addition or a replacement project that is necessary in any particular community, one of the things that it is based on is the utilization rates of the schools along with the enrolment rates, the age of the school, and a lot of this information. We have that in our capital database and that information is what we use in order to prioritize what projects that get brought forward.

Now, given the perfect situation and there are all kinds of money out there to get it done, I am sure that is another restriction that we do have on there, as I had indicated in my opening comments, is working within the resources that we have available to be able to address those concerns.

We have a very stringent prioritization process. I think, with the update that is going on with this assessment, it will also assist in updating all of our

information on our schools to be able to help us continue to keep identifying where the priorities are needed and what needs to get done.

Again, the next step after that is ensuring that the fiscal resources are available to be able to move forward on that. We will do what we can with the dollars we have available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the assessment and the assessment team, is this a contract firm that is doing this or are these actual Department of Education staff who travel to the communities to do the assessment? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a service that is being contracted out to the private sector and it was awarded to a firm called Indoor Air Quality and they're based out of Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I know one of the things that the government has talked about is having the different departments work together and not work in silos.

We have been finding out that CGS has the Nunavut community integrated sustainability plans where lists of GN assets and hamlet assets are being collected. The Department of Health is doing the same thing. Are they piggybacking on this contract to help the departments out?

Do we have Department of Education going in and figuring out what their assets are and how old they are and then we have CGS contracting other contractors to go in? Are you guys all working together? I know you can't answer for other departments, but are you working with other departments on this or is it just strictly the Department of Education? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, in the old system, the light used to go off, so I used to know that it was off.

Mr. Chairman, right now, the contractor that's out there, I believe, there was an RFP put out to do the specific assessment on the schools. This contractor is also on a standing offer agreement with Community and Government Services. All of the information that's generated out of these reports is fed into the Community and Government Services database on our government assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's excellent, finally people working together. That's great.

You guys have a database as well that you spent millions of dollars creating, and then there's the RECAPP database that CGS is spending millions of dollars on. Are they separate databases in terms of the way you guys track your aging buildings? Are they two separate databases? You had said that you are working together, but do they feed into

the same database or are they separate databases? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that compliment. I agree with you. It's nice that we are now, as he pointed out, not working in silos and we are looking at becoming more effective and more efficient in working together. I think good communication between the user departments and the central department that looks after our facilities is essential. I think what we're finding now as a result of this assessment that's going on is the result of some of the things of what has happened in the past is a result of that not happening. We are moving forward and taking steps to address that.

My understanding is that our database is a rather small database. I think it was about \$8,000 to set up, so it's not in the millions. Although we could probably use a little more to get an even better one, the one we have on the ground that costs us around \$8,000 is serving our needs. Again, that's used to determine our own capital needs and the reports from that feed into the Community of Government Services database as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of staff housing, one of the concerns I know of a lot of the regular members is education is very important and quality education is what keeps coming up as well.

I think we want to try and keep our teachers happy, but a lot of teachers

seem to have to either double up or move into houses where they have to share accommodations with someone. I know some of our new Inuk teachers in Arctic Bay who just finished the NTEP program wanted to move into staff housing and ran into difficulties because there were not enough staff houses allocated. Is your department working on some type of a long-term strategy to help with that? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say that Mr. Elliott thinks along the same lines as the representatives who are here from all across Nunavut attending the DEA annual meeting that's going on for the coalition today. Those are some of the exact same questions that they were asking me about this morning.

The department does inform us with any new infrastructure requirements going into a community, whether it be the Department of Education, or Justice, or whatever department. When we're in the planning stages of that, any staff housing requirements to go along with that are requested to the Nunavut Housing Corporation because it's the corporation that looks after the staff housing.

A good example of that I could use right now is one that Mr. Rumbolt was asking about, the new school going up in Sanikiluaq. There are corresponding staff housing units going up in the community to accommodate that increase to the infrastructure in the community. So that is something that we are working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on.

Also, Mr. Chairman, another thing that we do is not always government owned staff housing units that are out there; there are some leased ones. Thanks to some of the concerns, if you want to call it that, brought forward by the staff, the teachers, and the district education authorities, it has enabled the Nunavut Housing Corporation to put a little bit of pressure onto the landlords of those units to be able to properly maintain them so that they are in better shape than they have been in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of wiring and some of the small capital repairs you were talking about, there was talk at one time about all of the schools receiving fibre optic in terms of their computer wiring within the schools so that they would have access in all classrooms. Has that happened and then rolled out all across Nunavut or is it slowly being phased in? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, that was one of the plans that was in there, but it is not included in any of the minor capital projects that have gone in here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do you have another comment there, Minister Tootoo?

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just the one that I had indicated in my opening comments, I believe, is the office communications



wiring in Rankin Inlet. There was \$28,000 there for that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding Gjoa Haven and the Qiqirtaq High School. It says here that there is \$1.5 million that will be used for studies to see if it is safe and to see what should be done. The study will be done in 2011-12. Do I understand that correctly? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Jeannie, for the question. We are looking at having the studies done in 2011-12 and we are roughly having about \$1.5 million set aside for the fiscal year 2011-12 to take care of any health and safety issues that are identified as a result of the assessment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): If I understood correctly, the issues that are causing the problems should be dealt with prior to the new fiscal year. I believe that it might be better to do that prior to the year-end. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I missed a part of it. The rest of that project and renovation are planned for... right now, they were bumped back a year from 2011-12 to the 2012-13 fiscal year to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list here. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimate starting with page E-3. Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,152,000. Details are on page E-4. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a quick question for the hon. minister. Only two new schools are included in your department's five-year plan. Have any other communities been identified as potential candidates for a new school and, if so, which ones? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the five-year plan, we are looking at either renovations or additions, or new schools in... I'm sorry. The print is really small here. I think I need to borrow your glasses, Mr. Chairman. Arviat has some planning dollars in 2012-13; Arviat, Igloolik, Gjoa Haven, and Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to hear that Baker Lake has been identified in the five-year plan. Is there any specific date as to when they might start processing the Baker Lake school and would that be the middle school? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to apologize. I forgot to mention Coral Harbour as well on that other list just previously, but that is on the list too.

Right now, the planning stages are for a new middle school in Baker Lake. We are looking at it being planned in the 2013-14 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one very quick question. With regard to the new school in Sanikiluaq, is it being built on budget or can we expect some cost overruns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the information that we have been provided by Community and Government Services that we are looking at right now, it will come in on budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to check on the status of the renovations of the Inuksuk High School here. I see that there is money set aside this year and I would like to know when it might be completed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at having it completed in 2012-13. As I indicated in

my opening comments, this year, they had renovations to the orange section, installation of a new chair lift for special needs students and staff, there are new entrance doors, a special needs washroom has been installed, and there has been new communications wiring.

For next year, what's going to be completed in there is there will be room-by-room renovation upgrades, including painting in the classrooms, hallways, stairwells, with floorings in the classrooms and hallways, and some new counters and sinks in all of the classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have anybody else who have any questions. Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan?

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Schell?

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I just wanted to get this clarified with respect to which fiscal year the project for Coral Harbour has been placed. I would like to understand to which fiscal year it has been deferred to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it is stated right now in the capital plan, we are going to have the planning dollars for the 2014-15 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan, you're done? Anybody else got any questions? If not, we will go back to page E-2. Oh, sorry, we've got to approve this first. Education. Branch

Summary. Corporate Services. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,152,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Now we will go back to page E-2. Department Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,152,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree that we have concluded the Department of Education?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Does the minister have any closing comments?

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions that the members brought forward. Also, as the Chairman pointed out in his opening comments, I am committed to providing information to the standing committee and to the Regular Members of the House.

Any updates or any changes with projects and timelines, as well as any of the minor capital stuff, any projects that get approved, as we committed, we would be providing and we will provide quarterly reports on that so that all members are kept up to date as to exactly what kind of things the department is doing with those minor capital projects so that they can see exactly what's happening and where and why those things are happening.

Also, we will commit to providing members with updates as these assessments that are going on right now are being completed and update information to all members as we move forward.

Again, thank you very much for your time and for your comments and questions, and I look forward to doing this again, hopefully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Thank you for showing up here and your officials showing up at the Committee of the Whole. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witness out.

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. We will now proceed. I would like to ask Minister Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, to make his opening comments.

**Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee of the Whole. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth capital budget for 2011-12 consists of two capital items in the amount of \$60,000 for minor office renovations and \$7 million for the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

The Vote 2 Minor Capital budget in the amount of \$60,000 will help the department renovate its offices in Baker Lake, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, and Iqaluit as

needed and purchase additional office equipment and furniture.

The \$7 million for the Nunavut Heritage Centre will be used for the project design for the complex facility, and I'm sure that's not going to be an easy task. The design phase may take between 12 and 18 months to complete. The estimated cost for the design phase of the Nunavut Heritage Centre is between \$8 million and \$9 million.

When design information becomes available for the facility, CLEY proposes to initiate discussions with senior federal officials concerning opportunities for a significant federal contribution to the construction of the centre.

I would be pleased to answer any questions from the committee, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is my Deputy Minister, Simon Awa, for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I am very pleased to introduce the new member. The Department of CLEY had been without a deputy minister for almost a year as our deputy minister was suddenly feeling ill and has not been replaced since. I am very pleased that we now have the new Deputy Minister of CLEY. To my left is our Manager of Finance and Administration, Niki Nweze. Those are my witnesses from CLEY.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Yes I do. I am very pleased to see Louis Tapardjuk, Simon Awa, and Ms. Nweze, and I do apologize if I didn't say your name correctly.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Wellness has reviewed the proposed capital estimates of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the 2011-12 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

Committee members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2011-12 is \$7,060,000, of which \$7.0 million is allocated for the Nunavut Heritage Centre project and \$60,000 is budgeted for minor capital projects. Members note that these proposed amounts are exactly the same as in the department's approved 2010-11 capital

estimates. The \$60,000 that has been budgeted by the department for minor capital projects is an ongoing yearly amount allocated for minor office renovations and the purchase of equipment.

In June of this year, \$7.0 million was transferred from the heritage centre project to address the shortfall in the Nunavut Housing Trust. This was not the first time that funding for this project has been reallocated by the government to address shortfalls in other areas. In October 2007, the government announced that "... to maintain previous time frames and incremental infrastructure commitments made to Nunavummiut with respect to major capital projects, \$9 million has been reallocated from the Heritage Centre Project."

During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister concurred with the committee that his department has experienced budget pressures during times of government-wide financial restraint. While the standing committee recognizes that these government-wide budget measures are beyond the control of the department, members are somewhat sceptical as to whether the \$7.0 million that is budgeted for the proposed Nunavut Heritage Centre will actually be used during the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, it is worth recalling that Article 33.2.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement states that "There is an urgent need to establish facilities in the Nunavut Settlement Area for the conservation and management of a representative proportion of the archaeological record."

Having such a facility in Nunavut would allow us to repatriate collections of artefacts of Nunavut origin, many of which are currently being stored under service contract at the NWT's Prince of Wales Heritage Centre. The standing committee notes that the Shared Services Agreement with the GNWT has been renewed and it is now effective until March 31, 2012.

A feasibility study that was tabled in the House in June 2003 indicated other possible sources from where items could be acquired for the purposes of establishing the founding collection of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. For example, the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa was cited as being a major repository for natural history collections. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the progress of developing the founding collection of the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

Members also look forward to ongoing updates on the progress of fundraising efforts for the Nunavut Heritage Centre, including any anticipated third party contributions. Members recognize that this project's ultimate success will very likely depend on federal funding and notes that the department's substantiation sheet for the project indicates that the government is "currently exploring, with P3 Canada, the feasibility of undertaking the full facility construction as a P-3 development."

Members note, however, that minimal information has been provided by the department with respect to exactly how the \$7.0 million will be spent. The department's substantiation sheet for the

project refers only to the development of the project design for the Nunavut Heritage Centre. The standing committee looks forward to receiving further details concerning the breakdown of how these funds will be spent.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised the idea of combining the Nunavut Heritage Centre with a performing arts centre. Members note that there has been attention paid in recent months to Nunavut artists and their efforts to establish the first performing arts centre in Nunavut. Members note that the department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that the Nunavut Heritage Centre "will also play a key role in supporting Nunavut's arts and culture sector." The standing committee encourages the department to explore the possibility of combining facilities, an idea that also has the potential of achieving economies of scale.

Mr. Chairman, the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural School continues to be a highly anticipated initiative. Construction of the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural School started in September 2009 and members look forward to the opening of the facility in 2011. As construction of Piqqusilirivvik nears completion, members look forward to being kept informed of the project's progress.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes the importance of fostering literacy among young Nunavummiut. Members note that no capital funds have been budgeted specifically for public libraries during recent years. During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister and his officials

advised members that the department would consider requests from libraries in need of capital funds.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I am confident that individual members will have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments in regard to the opening comments that were made earlier? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials. One issue that I would like to ask a question is in regard to the Nunavut Heritage Centre. We hear by way of the media that they are doing some fundraising. Looking at the possibility of a performing arts centre, I think it would be more feasible if we put those two together in one facility. I think it would make things a lot easier if the performing arts centre and cultural centre were combined into one facility. My question to the minister is: what is your department doing for that type of an option? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my

colleague. We have looked into this issue and we are looking at the possibility of having the heritage centre and the performing arts centre combined. We did not have an opportunity to meet because of a lot of other issues, but we are looking at the possibility of working together with other entities. I have also directed my staff to discuss this issue again. We will want to give support to some of those ideas that can be considered, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are there any further questions? I have no other names on my list for general comments. We can now move on to D-3. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$60 million. (interpretation) I'm sorry. \$60,000. Do you agree with that?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I almost gave them a lot more money.

>>*Laughter*

Go to page D-5. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$7 million. (interpretation) Are there any questions? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you. In Baker Lake, we have the Inuit Heritage Centre and there's also one in Igloolik, but I'm hearing about a new performing arts centre. I don't know

whether it's going to be a new facility or there's going to be renovations in both Baker Lake and Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The Nunavut Heritage Centre is just for Iqaluit. Baker Lake and Igloolik are not included. We will be working with them on the Piquqsilirivvik Cultural Centre, but we are not working with them on the heritage centre.

For Baker Lake, if they should request funds for their centre, we do have some money set aside under grants and contributions, and we can look at your proposal. Once we receive correspondence, my staff can review and consider it, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I don't think there are any more questions. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$7 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will go back to page D-2. Department Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Expenditures. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$7,060,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree that we have concluded the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. We will keep the committee informed. We will be utilizing those funds so that we can visualize what the cultural centre will look like.

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, Moses, stated that people want to know the opening date of Piqusilirivvik. What I can state is that it is slated to be completed in February 2011, behind schedule by about two months. The facility requires some minor adjustments over this two-month period. Further, our goal is to have it completely ready by August of next year so that it is ready for operations by the end of the summer. We expect that most of the logistics will be completed, including the selection of the first group of students, along with the teachers who will teach the courses.

This project is nearing completion, but I wanted to note this based on the previous mention of the facility so that the members will be fully aware of the plans for the facility. Further, I want to thank my colleagues for approving the allocations for completing this worthwhile project. This initiative will also allow the territory to start building capacity. So our expectations are that this project will be completed and this project has been ongoing for several years now. However, the biggest barrier

we have run into is the financial aspects of funding this project. This is something we will be working to finish and it is quite obvious that my deputy minister is committed to this project as he has worked really hard to complete this project in the upcoming months.

I wanted to thank you all for your hospitality.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, we also wish to thank you, Minister Tapardjuk along with your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out.

Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have completed the items that we had to deal with, I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 38 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 22:

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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 38
  - Bill 39
  - Bill 40
  - Bill 41
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 22, at ten o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:40*

