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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Okalik, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)

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(Iqaluit East)

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

Adamee Komoartok

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Minister of Education; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, February 22, 2011****Members Present:**

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Okalik) (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon. Just prior to commencing our session, I would like to first inform the House that the MLA representing Tununiq will be unable to attend due to his continuing recuperation from his health issues. That is my first housekeeping item.

Money Message

Before we proceed with our orders of the day, I have received the following correspondence from our esteemed Commissioner addressed to my attention:

Hon. Paul Okalik, Speaker of the House Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 52, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2009-2010*
- Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2010-2011*
- Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2010-2011*

Sincerely, Edna Elias, C.M.
Commissioner of Nunavut

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Minister Lorne Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 230 – 3(2):
Ministers Taptuna and Tootoo
Absent from House**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish my colleagues a good day. Further, I would like to extend a good day to my constituents in Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the Hon. Hunter Tootoo will be absent from the House from February 22 to 23 to attend an FPT ministers' meeting on education.

I also would like to inform you, along with our colleagues, that the Hon. Peter Taptuna will also be absent from the House for the same time period of February 22 to 23. An unfortunate incident occurred whereby Kugluktuk lost one of their esteemed elders, Mr. Peter Kamingoak, who passed away just recently.

Our hon. colleague is currently visiting the family to mourn with them and offer his support. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend our sympathies to those left behind by the passing of Mr. Peter Kamingoak in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Minister's Statement 231 – 3(2): Inuit Language Standardization Symposium – Uqausiqaqatigiinniq

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my fellow Nunavummiut about an event that occurred just recently. We held an Inuit Language Standardization Symposium that was held in Iqaluit from February 7 to 11, 2011 during *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq*, Language Week.

I am pleased to announce that this event was part of our efforts to implement Nunavut's *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The symposium was an opportunity for all of us to better understand and appreciate the importance of *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*'s efforts in standardizing the Inuit language in Nunavut. We believe that

standardization of our language will help protect and promote our unique Inuit language.

Standardizing the Inuit language will help communities, public, schools, departments, organizations, and the private sector, regardless of which regions they are from, to have better communication with each other, establish safety measures for service providers, and will help to ensure that our language will be used in all fields of society in our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude towards regional Inuit organizations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Office of the Languages Commissioner, and departments and staff who worked hard to plan for this event and have assisted in kick-starting the working relationship that is required among communities, organizations, the private sector, and the departments to start standardizing our beautiful language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. There are no more hands up. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 353 – 3(2): Issues with NHC in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize your role and for that, I congratulate you for your position

I went to Repulse Bay to meet with the hamlet council as well as to meet with other constituents in that community; I am grateful that I was able to do so. I also went to Kugaaruk.

In Repulse Bay, the issue of housing is the most pressing concern. Perhaps, at the appropriate time, I would like to recognize that the minister of housing has allocated enough units to the communities.

The two construction projects are currently in limbo because they have not been paid. I spoke with the two construction companies. They stated they have not been paid yet and they would like to be paid for the services they rendered so that they can go back to their home communities. They have been told that they will not be paid the ticket to return home and they have another arrangement.

Currently in Kugaaruk, I was told that a correspondence was sent to the minister and the housing association employees in Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay were not paid. I would like to know why they were not paid when they are conducting their mandate as per legislation. Why are the Repulse Bay Housing Association and the Kugaaruk Housing Association employees not being paid?

I also heard another piece of news from Kugaaruk that did not sit well. They hired a housing association manager from the regional office. He stated to the housing association that if the council is not willing to listen to the regional authority, they would be kicked out, (interpretation ends) "Out they go," (interpretation) and the minister would choose replacements.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the minister if anyone has the power to remove our council members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat.

**Member's Statement 354 – 3(2):
Working for Arviarmiut**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would also like to welcome you to your new Chair in the House.

I rise today to say a special "hello" to all of my constituents in Arviat who are joining us in this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent and be the MLA for Arviat. I also want to ensure all of my constituents that I am working very hard with all of my colleagues in cabinet and all of the regular members to deal with the challenges we face in the community of Arviat.

I am working diligently to work on our degrading infrastructure needs, shortage of housing needs, critical health issues, and also to try and replace lost GN positions in our community. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to address these issues with a deep concern and try to bring some of them to resolve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Quttiktuq.

**Member's Statement 355 – 3(2):
Nutrition North Canada Program**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start my Member's Statement, I would like to extend my condolences to Ludy Pudluk, his family, and the community of Resolute Bay on the passing of his wife, Dora, last month. As members are aware, Ludy has been a huge supporter of the High Arctic as a Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly. Most recently, he was elected as mayor of Resolute Bay and resigned to spend time with his wife.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Nutrition North Canada Program. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House will be aware, the federal government's new Nutrition North Canada Program officially replaces the Food Mail Program in less than 40 days.

Over the past two years, one of my priorities as a Member of the Legislative Assembly has been to address the issue of the high cost of living in the High Arctic. This has also been one of the areas that the High Arctic Council has focused much of its work, especially with respect to the issue of air transportation, the cost of which has a significant impact on the price of food and other goods.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, the community of Arctic Bay has recently seen the opening of a food bank. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Anna Qaunaq and other Arctic Bay residents who have volunteered to do what she can to make sure that no child and no family goes hungry in our community. Mr. Speaker, the fact that we need to have a food bank should tell

us that something is wrong. Food insecurity is a profoundly disturbing issue and one which is fundamentally linked to poverty.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been actively engaged in dialogue with the federal government over the past two years concerning its review of the Food Mail Program and the subsequent introduction of the new Nutrition North Canada Program.

In December of 2009, I tabled copies of correspondence that I had sent to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs concerning INAC's review of the Food Mail Program. This correspondence urged the federal government to take into account a number of concerns in its review of the Food Mail Program.

As members will be aware, a Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board has been established by the federal government to "Review and consider matters including, but no exclusive to, program performance, communications and public awareness, health and nutrition strategies, transportation systems, food supply chain management, food pricing..."

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Quttiktuq is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

As members will be aware, a Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board has been established by the federal government to “Review and consider matters including, but not exclusive to, program performance, communications and public awareness, health and nutrition strategies, transportation systems, food supply chain management, food pricing, and product subsidy eligibility, in terms of the ways in which they are serving the interests of northern residents or could be improved.”

Later today, I will be tabling two letters that I have recently written to the chairperson of the advisory board, both of which outline a number of concerns and suggestions for the advisory board’s consideration. These include the importance of ensuring that the board closely monitors the success of the new Nutrition North Canada Program in such areas as lowering the retail price of nutritious food, addressing the needs of communities that are served by airlines and retailers that enjoy a monopoly or near-monopoly position, enhancing the transparency of retail pricing, and expanding access to country food.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there has been a significant amount of public attention paid recently to the prices of products on the shelves of stores in Arctic Bay. I was pleased to note that there was productive discussion of the new Nutrition North Canada Program at last week’s meeting of Baffin mayors, which I had the privilege of attending. As well, Minister Duncan himself mentioned in a teleconference meeting with media that it has been healthy to engage in a debate over this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I say with all sincerity that I am pleased that there has been a vigorous discussion in recent days concerning the new Nutrition North Canada Program. Many of the comments made by our Member of Parliament and the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs reflect what I believe is a sincere desire on their part to see this program succeed for the benefit of all northerners. I again state that nobody will be more pleased than me to see this program have a positive impact on the lives of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Minister Aglukkaq for having arranged for Nutrition North Canada officials to meet with me last week in Ottawa as I felt that it was important for me to have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the officials who will actually be administering this program and to provide them with suggestions concerning priority areas of action.

Mr. Speaker, we must not lose sight of the fact that the success of the Nutrition North Canada Program will ultimately depend on all stakeholders living up to their responsibilities. The federal government has stated that northern retailers and southern suppliers who “agree to the terms and conditions of the arrangements to be made with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to govern the transfer of funds” will be eligible to participate in the program. Clearly, the federal government has an important role to play in monitoring and auditing the extent to which retailers and suppliers use the federal subsidy to pass on savings to their customers, who are our constituents.

As I noted earlier, the communities that I represent are serviced by retailers and airlines that enjoy near-monopoly power. I believe that it is important for all of us as MLAs to have the opportunity to speak directly with the private sector decision-makers whose actions have significant impact on our communities and constituents.

I would note that in November of last year, senior executives from the North West Company, Arctic Co-Operatives Limited, First Air, and other corporate citizens appeared before a standing committee of the House of Commons on the occasion of its review of the new Nutrition North Canada Program. It would be my hope and expectation that these corporate citizens will also welcome the opportunity to appear before our Legislative Assembly later this year and I look forward to the support of my colleagues in extending the appropriate invitation to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Nanulik.

**Member's Statement 356 – 3(2):
Congratulations on Successful
Hosting of Event**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin with my statement, I would like to say “good day” to the residents of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to inform our colleagues of a very successful event that you hosted last month as our Speaker. The 28th

Annual Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Iqaluit in late January. This event brings together Speakers and other presiding officers from legislatures across Canada.

As the Deputy Speaker, during this conference at our Legislative Assembly, I was quite proud that all of these delegates who came to our territory were quite impressed with the Speaker's presentation and the fact that he highlighted the different languages that we use in this territory.

While we were welcoming our colleagues, our Speaker spoke about how the Inuktitut language legislation was undertaken, along with the protocol and the behaviour that are expected of the Members in the House. He highlighted a lot of the operations and the protocol that we follow here in the House. He was very good in highlighting that. It seemed to fall right into the Inuit Language Week. We happened to have caught it and it seemed like an appropriate time to bring up the Inuktitut language.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that this opened up the eyes of many of our fellow provincial legislators or Speakers who may not have understood the circumstances of Nunavut and how Inuktitut is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Nanulik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are

no nays. Member for Nanulik, you may proceed.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, I also want to inform the members that our Speaker was also quite eloquent when he spoke about the language, what is occurring in Nunavut, what the resources are, and what economic opportunities may exist in Nunavut. He was able to present this in a good manner. He was very hospitable. It was obvious that his colleagues were quite impressed when we conducted the opening session.

It was quite obvious that a lot of the protocols we use, along with the clothing we wear in the House, were quite eye-opening for the other Speakers because, again, it highlighted the fact that we are Inuit and that Inuit seamstresses are quite good at making clothing, especially here in Iqaluit.

I was also quite happy when the delegates would come and speak to me about this conference. They stated that they were quite proud that Nunavut has its own identity and they wanted to support us, especially in providing support for wildlife or other trades that will allow Nunavut to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues in congratulating the Speaker and his employees for being so hospitable and welcoming to his colleagues from the rest of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung.

Member's Statement 357 – 3(2): Late Freeze-up in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also quite proud that you are sitting in your role. I also say "good afternoon" to my fellow residents in Pangnirtung. I was just apprised of the very good weather up there and I am quite proud that they are enjoying the weather. Please enjoy your stay at home.

I would like to speak about the long summer we had. From about the middle of June, when the ice broke off, our community was able to boat until January 10, when the ice finally formed. Cumberland Sound finally iced over around January 16 or 17 and people were able to go to Cumberland Sound. This was so far behind. The weather wasn't cooperating and it was too warm for the ice to form. It was the first time we observed that the usual time of ice forming is November and December, and the ice didn't even form in those two months. Some of us were wondering what's so different about these two months, and it seemed like every time it would freeze, the weather would change and it would melt again.

Usually, by December 31, there's enough snow for people to start using their snowmobiles. For a while, we weren't even expecting any further snow, but luckily for us, on December 31, a big snow storm came that allowed our community to be able to use snowmobiles. On January 24, our temperature rose to 8 degrees Celsius

and that melted all of the snow we used for our snowmobiles. Again, there have been more snowfalls, but there are certain areas with snow patches that allow us to use the land.

With that as it is, the fiord had iced over, but the Cumberland Sound hasn't iced over yet. The people who want to go fishing and go to other areas have been unable to reach those lakes due to the lack of ice and snow. This has really impacted our community, especially for those who depend on the land for revenue and for supplemental food.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Wildlife and harvesting is a very important part of our culture. When you cannot undertake that due to the lack of ice and snow, it becomes very hard, but we also get a lot of support from other communities.

This fall and winter, we were getting freight that was shipped to our community from Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, and from other communities that provided us with caribou and other country foods, and we're very grateful for all of the country food that was sent to our community. Just before I came here, prior to my

travel, another freighter landed with a lot of country food.

The lack of ice formation during the winter is becoming a more pressing issue and it seems to be delayed time and time again every year by another month or so. We're not even close to where the time periods used to be for ice formation. It was very different. We didn't seem to have a very good fall and I never got cold. This is just to let you know that our community is being severely impacted by climate change.

Those of us in South Baffin have had a very long fall and it seemed like we would never reach winter. This may become a larger and more pressing issue in Nunavut, and this is something we're going to have to plan for because the impact of climate change is going to affect more and more communities, not just our community.

That comprises my Member's Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin.

**Member's Statement 358 – 3(2):
Trigger Locks for Kimmirut and
Cape Dorset**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just to like everybody here back to the leg., and it's been two or three months since we have been here and I'm sure a lot of things have happened here. There are going to be some good questions asked in question period and hopefully the ministers will have some answers.

Personally I would like to welcome the new Speaker in this position here and also Hon. Louis Tapardjuk here to help us on our side. I'm sure he's going to come up with some good questions.

I'm just going to make it short and sweet. I just want to let everyone know that I made good on my promise of supplying trigger locks to Kimmirut and Cape Dorset and they will be shipped in the next week. I'm hoping the government will look at ways to try to get trigger locks to the rest of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik.

**Member's Statement 359 – 3(2):
Regional Treatment/Healing
Centres**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good day" to Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak residents, and I am honoured to be back in the legislature. From time to time, I'll be asking questions on social issues.

We know that the treatment centres will be opened in the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot regions, which our residents have been expecting for some time. We want to see this initiative run smoothly. However, the communities Taloyuak and Gjoa Haven should be involved right from the start, especially when they are deliberating on the choice of a community and services that will be offered where this facility will be housed.

I would like to be informed about whether the facility will be placed in Cambridge Bay or in the outlying communities. As the details are being fleshed out, including the options, I would like to be informed as many of our residents will have to go for treatment for their vices, be it for alcohol or drugs.

Many of the individuals who go for treatment will impact many lives around our region. In order to ensure that this facility operates in the most efficient and effective manner, I will be asking questions about this facility from time to time.

During my last trip to Gjoa Haven, an elder from the community, Qajalik, stated that current initiatives within the social services are too based not the Inuit traditional values and principles which are used to resolve Inuit social problems. They don't use Inuit traditional values and principles in counselling. Inuit felt it would be accomplished with the creation of Nunavut, that Inuit values, practices, and traditions would be incorporated into the treatment centre services. The unilingual elders are taken advantage of, which causes mental anguish, especially when their grandchildren or their children are forcibly taken from their homes.

Nunavummiut have many questions regarding these centres. Will the treatment centre be established? Will it be utilized? If we will be utilizing the centre, how will it provide these services in Inuktitut? Many elders are awaiting these centres in our communities, Gjoa Haven, and territory. Will Inuit be in the middle, That is what I want clarified since I know... .

I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Nattilik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Nattilik, you may proceed.

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

As I was stating, I think that if we are going to be using Inuit traditional knowledge, values, and principles in healing and counselling, we know that the majority of the social workers stem from the southern provinces. With these cultural divides, we know that a lot of counsellors and social workers have a very heavy workload, which is exacerbated by the differences in the way the two cultures deal with conflict resolution.

Many workers leave when they are stressed out and the residents of the communities will not be leaving their community for treatment, so I believe that the local resources available in the community should be better utilized. Much like the local DEAs which are rediscovering the Inuit fountain of knowledge available in the communities, the Department of Health and Social Services should be using this immense store of knowledge since we have many Inuit who are quite competent in counselling others. We have to use what resources we have.

Whenever an incident occurs in our communities, it impacts all of the residents, especially when it relates to

social issues. We have to repatriate the traditional Inuit counselling, knowledge, and social skills which were used to deal with social issues in the past. I would like to recommend that we include IQ values in the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are still on Item 3. Members' Statements. No one has their hand up, so we can now go to... I'm sorry. Someone has their hand up. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq.

Member's Statement 360 – 3(2): Lack of Government Services in Hall Beach

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am ecstatic that I am able to stand on this side now, the regular members' side.

I would like to speak to this issue first. The session is usually aired on television and it seems like our community in Igloolik continues to have satellite problems, so they haven't been able to watch. I just heard recently that they fixed the problems and I am grateful that they will actually be able to watch the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise today to speak to this issue that I want Nunavummiut to hear about, along with my colleagues here in the House, and this revolves around the smaller communities and the services provided to these smaller communities. The discrepancy between a small and a larger community is very noticeable because if you look at our community of Hall Beach compared to Igloolik, there is a

big difference in the number of houses. The number of services available is not always able to go to Hall Beach because there is a lack of housing.

Even though the social workers in Igloolik as well as other government employees who have to provide services to the smaller communities face barriers, such as the lack of housing, the lack of office space, things of that nature that allow an employee to work within the community, I wanted my colleagues to understand that even though the communities may be smaller, they are still part of Nunavut and they have to receive the same number of services that are provided to these larger communities.

Prior to my leaving this session, I will be working with the minister either inside or outside the House to deal with this pressing issue and to see how we can resolve these problems. I want all of the communities to be represented properly and to be provided the best possible service that there can be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. There are no more names. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

Return to Oral Question 498 – 3(2): Assessment of Housing Units

Return to Oral Question 501 – 3(2): Office Space for Mental Health in Sanikiluaq

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling returns to the following oral questions that were taken as notice in the last sitting: No. 498 – 3(2) and No. 501 – 3(2). Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We can now go to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nanulik has his hand up.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge and recognize someone who is very close to my heart, who is my assistant, and also whenever I am in trouble, she is the one who helps me stand again and that is my wife, Elizabeth Ningeongan. Please welcome her to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the legislature. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are no more hands up. I welcome all visitors to the Gallery. We can now go to Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq has his hand up.

*See Appendix 1 for full text of Returns to Oral Questions 498 – 3(2) and 501 – 3(2) filed with the Clerk.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 521 – 3(2): Issues with NHC in Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier in my Member's Statement that I will be asking a question to the Minister of Housing. First of all, I would like to thank the minister for appointing housing association councillors. Due to his power as the minister, he appointed certain people to run the association.

As I spoke to earlier in my statement, from what I heard, the housing association employees have not been paid for. I believe it's now two or three weeks ongoing where they haven't been paid and the minister also received some correspondence from Kugaaruk. The mayor and his worker in Repulse Bay also dealt with that issue. I am wondering whether the minister is able to pay those employees now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Minister.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question, but I also wanted him to know that the questions you raised will... I am sorry. The answers you used to provide will be sorely missed on this side.

I want the individual to know that the units that were being constructed starting last fall were taken under the Affordable Housing Initiative program. The units in Kugaaruk were constructed by NCC

Dowland. There was one five-plex and also four units. As we stated this fall, the SIP units, which comprised four units in Kugaaruk, would be constructed up until the end of December. They wanted to ensure that they were shelled in and the funding was only allocated for that purpose. The contractor also had a subcontractor that worked on the housing and basically these were to raise the units. NLRV, I believe, was the subcontractor.

What I want to state here is that the Nunavut Housing Corporation doesn't pay the subcontractors because the contractors are responsible for that, so I cannot really answer why they weren't paid. The project had to be completed by December 31 and we have been informed that once the subcontractors completed their projects, the work was done. We will be offering new contracts on January 1 and furthermore, the finishing projects will be in April, which would be new contracts. That's all I can provide at this time. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first supplementary is with regard to the contractor that the government appoints. First of all, with an appointed contractor, do you not have an agreement where, if you have subcontractors or people underneath you, you have to pay them? Don't you have an agreement that states that they have to pay their subcontractors by a certain date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That is another question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the contractors, they also have to deal with their cash flow. That is how they pay their subcontractors and they may have to borrow funding. What we do as a government is we provide the funding based on the completion of the project, the finalization of the inspection, and they also check the boilers. CGS inspectors also look at various aspects. We provide the funding based on the completion of these deliverables. This is basically geared towards contractors.

I would have to look into the issue to see why the problem surfaced, but our obligation with respect to the contractors is that as long as they are providing the deliverables and they pass inspections, the project gets paid. However, if there are any problems, then the funding can be delayed. So it's based on the completion level. It's only when there have been delays in the construction that payments are also usually deferred. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's on a side issue to the housing corporation, so I'll ask him later.

As I stated, I also thank the minister for dealing with the housing association. They had an agreement to deal with that particular entity. It stated that the bureaucracy of the housing corporation

informed them, but they have never seen actual correspondence. They were told that if they don't want to listen to the housing corporation, then the council will be kicked out, (interpretation ends) "Out they go." (interpretation) So if an underling of the minister can just kick out a housing association board, then isn't that power being abused? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond by saying that the local housing authority isn't the employee of the contractors or the people working for the contractor. The local municipality can only make sure that the contractor is abiding by municipal legislations or policies. The contractor is the one who is responsible for payment of their employees. That's all I can tell you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under this government, we have *Tamapta* plans, which means all-inclusive, no fear, and no dictatorship within the Nunavut government. When I hear from my community that one certain entity appointed by the minister of the Crown is told that "If you don't follow what you're supposed to do, out you go," it doesn't make sense at all, especially when we believe the government's plan is *Tamapta*, which means all-inclusive.

Will the hon. minister communicate through his staff with the housing association in Kugaaruk and find out who has stated that “If you don’t follow, out you go”? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for bringing that up. As I stated, if I have a question from yourself and the local housing authority, we will find out exactly what you mean by who stated that. If we can get something in writing about your question, we can look into what happened. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are at Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq.

Question 522 – 3(2): Health Services in Igloolik

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I think the minister is already aware and we are also aware that we had an issue in Igloolik where a youth passed away. However, I won’t be raising that question to the minister. I want to hear from the minister whether he can inform this House, along with the listening public, whether his department has a protocol for dealing with the level of service of the health centre; it depends on the nurse as well as the community. How do you try to follow a standard when you’re dealing with specific patients or the level of service that has

been provided to a patient? Do you have a protocol or a checklist that nurses have to follow? Is there some kind of procedural process where it identifies the nurse? For example, words of hospitality, words of welcome, little things of that nature.

That’s my first question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is directed to the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. We have the same questions from the communities. As the Department of Health and Social Services, all Nunavut residents are to be ensured the quality of health services delivered in our communities at our health centres and that the standards exceed in our health service delivery in our communities, especially to have a proper Nursing Program and nurses responsible for these health centres.

As we stated, we apologize and send our condolences to the families who have lost their young infants. Due to that reason, I have talked with our staff and our directors of the health centres on how we can improve our services in the community, and I can say that we will try and help Nunavutmiut to the best of our ability. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his appropriate response. We are all aware that these are very

difficult circumstances when you are working as a nurse and we have to handle issues that require confidentiality, as well as other issues that are quite stressful. Most of us know, those of us with the hamlets, they tend to have a subcommittee that deals with the health and social services that comprises part of the hamlet council.

Can the minister inform me as to how these subcommittees that may be underneath the hamlet council would be able to work in collaboration with the Department of Health as well as the local health centre? Perhaps meet with the subcommittee members so that they will be able to work with the health centre nurses and the administrators in order to meet their local needs. Does the committee require more mandates or do they even have the privilege of being able to speak with the local health centre? Can we offer the nurses or the health centre to sit on the subcommittee? I would like to know what kind of by-law you have or whether there's any issues related to having the nurses on the subcommittee, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your comment. We have heard repeatedly from the majority of the communities, the hamlets, the Inuit organizations, and our elder from Rankin Inlet who had just passed away had advised me that we should have an ombudsman who will be representing our Inuit people if they have complaints. I would like to tell our colleague that we are working on it within our department.

It's taking time, it's a slow process, and the health issues are our responsibility. Empowering these health committees at the local level will take time because of confidentiality issues. We feel for you. The local people, especially our elders, need someone at the local level to make an appeal or to make complaints about public health and have them dealt with in a proactive manner.

I can also state that if our medical staff or the head nurse is requested to speak before the hamlet council, they are open to making a report and the director is open to this idea as well as being open to any complaints about medical services. At least they are able to speak to these issues, according to my understanding, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is quite obvious that we have to keep our communities as well as the local health centres informed, including the subcommittees that deal with health and social services. They have to work closely with the community health representatives, especially when informing the members of the community.

When problems are occurring, especially when we go through a difficult time, people require support and assistance when they are undergoing stress. Does the minister have any plans to deal with this issue further with the hamlets, health and social services committees, or even the community health representatives to look at how they can collaborate and

work together to deal with some of these issues?

I believe that some of the smaller communities require visiting social service workers. Does the minister have any resources available if the communities should request this assistance to the minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry, I made a mistake. You still actually have one more supplementary and I wasn't aware of the process. That question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for your question in regard to healing and I believe you also have another question relating to the healing circles, especially when they have to be provided with emergency services.

As I have heard, some people are grieving in Igloolik. I have asked our officials to be available if the community of Igloolik requests to get some healing group support. They can contact private healing companies and they can use those entities since Inuktitut is their working language. I have directed my officials to be entirely open to any suggestions and I will also ensure that it remains open, Mr. Speaker, for any requests.

In regard to your question, we have considered these selfsame matters and I expect that some time in the future, we will at least have a phone number where people can call when they have problems. As you stated earlier, which I totally understood, some people are very

uneasy about opening up about their problems and many of these issues are highly confidential.

We will continue to try and hire the director of medical affairs, including the counselling positions that are under the Code of Professional Conduct. Because the policies are professional conduct policies, we will work with them. We will need their support and we will continually work on that until we find a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 523 – 3(2): Flu Update

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

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, 11 months ago, on March 23, 2010, this House voted to approve just under \$6 million in supplementary appropriations for one-time treatment costs for the H1N1 pandemic flu virus.

Can the minister clearly describe to this House what the current status of Nunavut's pandemic flu plan is and how Nunavut's health system is coping during the current flu season? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the question, the member is asking me to clearly describe to this House and I

would like to provide him with information. I also would like to take his question as notice because I would like to clearly describe my response. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister has taken the question as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, you may now ask a question.

Question 524 – 3(2): Money Owed to Pangnirtung Hamlet from NHC

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As I stated earlier, our local hamlet has requested more funding because their funds are usually just enough for the year, especially when it relates to financial management.

In our local community, the Nunavut Housing Corporation units were constructed on lots allocated to them. The hamlet hasn't been paid any lease payments since 2005 and the revenue that is supposed to come within those three years has really scuttled our hamlet's ability to properly finance a certain number of projects. It's caused barriers in our hamlet.

It's now been almost six years where the Nunavut Housing Corporation has not made any lease payments to the housing association. The lease payment amounts are starting to grow bigger. Although the requests for payment have been sent to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, there has been no response. The amount is now \$129,000. So my question to the

minister is: when will the Nunavut Housing Corporation pay its lease obligations to the Hamlet of Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the very first time I have heard that question in regard to not paying the land lease. If it states in the rental agreement that they have to pay the land lease, I would like to find out if the land lease is included in the rent. I would like to get clearer information. I would like the member to provide me with correspondence so I can provide that information to my officials. I would like to get clarification from the member and from the hamlet council. If they can write a letter in regard to this, then I will be able to do something with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. He stated that will be looking into this matter and hopefully he will come up with a solution.

There have been correspondence that has been gathered together and they have been submitted to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but then it seems to go into limbo because there is never any response. The hamlet council has already sent two stacks of paperwork to the housing corporation. Maybe the minister can look into this matter after he finds

his missing pieces of paperwork. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, we will look into that matter once we get the correspondence. I, too, want to understand the reasons for the non-payment of the land lease. If they were not paid as per the legal requirements, then it is not acceptable. I want to get the background information so that I can speak with the officials at the Nunavut Housing Corporation here about the matter. I also believe that we may have to check with the district office in Cape Dorset as they usually have the land lease documents. After we have checked into that matter, I would like some correspondence so that we can resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay.

Question 525 – 3(2): Functional Review of Decentralization

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

On January 14 of this year, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs issued a request for proposals for consultants to undertake an independent review of the GN's decentralized functions. This RFP closed on February 4. Can the Premier tell us today what company was awarded the contract to undertake the functional

review of decentralization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is for the Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to congratulate you on your first day as the Speaker.

I would like to thank the member for his question. The review of the GN's decentralized functions is now ongoing at this time. I can't really remember the name of the previous contractor. Once I get that information, I will get back to you. (interpretation ends) I think what you are asking me is the name of the contractor to do the functional review. I will have to get back to you on that one once I have it. I know it is available. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An issue that I and other Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised on a number of occasions over the last couple of years concerns the process by which our constituents obtain their driver's licences and general identification cards. A number of questions have been asked about the delays and backlogs in this process. As the Premier is aware, one of the government's decentralized offices is the Motor Vehicles Division of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Can the Premier confirm that this review will take a close look at the operations of this office and the extent to which decentralization has impacted the process for Nunavut

residents to obtain driver's licences and general identification cards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to continually monitor the government's decentralized functions and make sure they are running well. Yes, we will look into that to make sure that the communities are represented properly at all levels. We will try and deal with his request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's request for proposals for the functional review of decentralization indicates that a final report must be completed by June 15, 2011. Will the Premier commit to tabling a complete copy of the report and its recommendations on the first day of the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly so that all members have the opportunity to review its contents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question, who would like to see the final report after the completion. Yes, we will make it public and I will table it when it's completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for Quttiktuq has another question.

Question 526 – 3(2): Nutrition North Canada Program

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier, the Hon. Eva Aariak.

Mr. Speaker, further to my Member's Statement earlier, I know that the Premier was in Ottawa last week to meet with Minister John Duncan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. I was wondering if the issue of the Nutrition North Canada Program came up and whether she could share with us what the discussion was. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member from Quttiktuq for his question. I met with Minister Duncan and we discussed various topics, including the Nutrition North Canada Program. I asked what the status of the program was as well as what the contents were. The response I received is that many people have issues and concerns with the Nutrition North Canada Program, as the Member for Quttiktuq has pointed out, and I thank the member for voicing their concerns on this new program, particularly with respect to the High Arctic communities. From the initial stage to date, they have maintained their position that the program will be initiated on April 1.

On top of that, I would like to say that many people of Nunavut are quite

concerned about the Nutrition North Canada Program and food mail in particular. This program is just in its initial stage, and we want to work with the federal government on this program to ensure that it is beneficial to Nunavummiut. That is what we would like to see. We also want to warrant if prices will be impacted and if it will indeed lower the cost of groceries as this is very important to Nunavummiut.

During our meeting, I made a presentation that the people of Nunavut are quite unique and come from a different perspective on this issue as some residents don't order food simply because their income level is insufficient to order food mail. For example, if we look at an income support recipient, their income is such that they can't save \$5,000 to be able to order food via this program. This is problematic. The need to have a large income means that some people cannot save enough to be able to order their groceries through sealift. That was just one of my examples and we discussed many topics, although I only mentioned this one.

I would also like to state that the government has established a committee that will review this to make sure that they communicate with the people of Nunavut and to make sure that they receive complaints and concerns with this government advisory body. At this time, there are five Inuit members on this advisory board. We will provide them with information as we receive them of this (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut Committee Monitoring the Nutrition North Canada Strategy Program. (interpretation) This program has not yet been established; it will be initiated and implemented on

April 1. At that time, we will find out what benefits and issues there are.

We are quite concerned since we are representing Nunavummiut because it drives the cost of groceries up. We would like to make sure that this program does not increase the cost. We hear from the stores that it is going to have an impact on them too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I just want clarification from the Premier's answer. I wasn't sure in terms of when she was talking, the board that has the Inuit representation, was that a board set up within the Government of Nunavut and something the Government of Nunavut has done or is that the federal government Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board that's been set up to monitor the program? Are there two separate boards that she's talking about or is there one? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will elaborate further on that. This is a huge issue and it is very important to Nunavummiut. The Nunavut government has established a committee to support the people of Nunavut and to monitor the Nutrition North Canada Program.

(interpretation ends) The goal of the committee is to identify issues of concern to Nunavummiut and taking

steps to address them, including drafting intergovernmental correspondence, drafting communications for the public in Nunavut, and other activities in support of what INAC is doing. Thank you, *Uqaqtittijii*.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Member for Quttiktuq, your second supplementary.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. That's the first time that we have actually heard about that committee. I was wondering if the Premier could commit to letting us know who is on the committee, what the committee makes up, and possibly when they will be meeting.

With what I mentioned in my Member's Statement about letters that I have been addressing to the advisory board to get clarity on different parts of the program and possible changes as the program rolls out, it would be nice to include the committee that she is talking about as a carbon copy as well. So if the Premier could commit to that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question and for requesting a carbon copy. There are three from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs: Paula McRae, Letia Obed, and Mark Sheridan; also the territorial public health nutritionist, Jennifer Wakegijiq; I hope I pronounced the name properly and I apologize if I didn't, Jennifer; also from the health and social services

department, program support, B.J. Barnes.

We believe that even though the federal government has their advisory board, the GN should have a committee because it's very important. We need to monitor this and we are sure that they are going to be working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, it was a surprise that the actual committee exists. I guess that leads me to my next question. Does the Government of Nunavut actually have an official position on the new Nutrition North Canada Program in terms of outlined in a briefing of some sort explaining to Nunavummiut what they feel and what their stance is on this program? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is alive and we are now discussing the issues. Probably all of us are trying to get a clearer understanding of this program and what the Nutrition North Canada Program might mean to us as northerners. Before the initiation on April 1, I cannot exactly tell you how it is and what our position is because there are other issues that we need to get clarified before April 1. We will be monitoring this very closely as it progresses.

Inuit of Nunavut are quite concerned about the issues and we are very

sensitive to their concerns. I would like to see a close working relationship. I believe that all Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut are quite concerned about the Nutrition North Canada Program and we will all monitor it in the near future as it progresses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq.

Question 527 – 3(2): Solid Waste Management

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too sure who to direct this question to, either to Madam Premier or to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In the communities, who is responsible for community waste and solid waste? Perhaps I'll direct my question to the Premier and she can redirect me if she wishes. Who is responsible? Is it the federal government, the Nunavut government, or the municipality that is responsible for solid waste and community waste? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Akulliq would like to ask his question to the Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question. With regard to solid waste dumps, this is an issue dealt with by all levels of government, especially the collection of garbage from housing units and personal

homes. The hamlet looks after that particular aspect of collecting garbage, and that is what I can state for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for informing me on this issue. With regard to these community dumps, I was taken to the community waste and dump site in Repulse Bay. It is rather large and becoming taller or bigger.

A lot of hazardous, toxic chemicals are lying right on the ground or within the vicinity. They are just exposed to the weather and they are not even covered over. We were informed, Mr. Speaker, that these hazardous, toxic chemicals are dangerous. That is why I'm asking if the minister looks after these kinds of substances. Do they have funding to deal with the hazardous substances in these community dumpsites? Is this part of the plan? That is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they are making plans and they are trying to determine the status so that they can resolve the issues related to that matter. We have many items to deal with related to our mandate, and many communities have different issues to resolve, and this will continue. If a new issue surfaces, then I will inform the member on any developments.

Our officials are working on this matter right now to look at options and what would be the best approach. They are checking to see what problems exist and what needs to be resolved in the communities. They are currently compiling the data on what needs to be dealt with in the various communities. They will still be working on these issues that they need to resolve even after this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary question, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have been informed, this is an issue being dealt with by various levels of governments, but our local hamlet is very concerned and they feel it's a pressing issue to deal with hazardous issues. They went and had me visit these sites a couple of times now. This is an urgent issue and it's becoming a pressing one. We have read that Repulse Bay doesn't even have a water licence.

I would like to request the minister to see how I can most expediently deal with these issues and to resolve these issues that are presenting a danger to the environment, to the animals, and to the residents of the community. I believe it impacts our whole environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one is just waiting around for these things to crop

up. As I stated, we're working and collaborating with various levels of government, including the local governments and our federal counterparts. We're also working with an environmental assessor to look at the kinds of hazards we may face in the community waste sites. Over the years, no one has really looked at this issue with hazardous materials and these communities are in various states. Some of them have licences while other communities don't.

To reiterate, we will continue to work with communities within our various government departments to try to identify what challenges we have. Once we have identified them, we will proceed with a plan of action. It seems to be a recurring theme throughout Nunavut to have a proper community waste site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his candid response. Perhaps in the second or third session, the minister can inform the House after he has conducted the research so that he can inform me prior to my return home. Maybe he can provide more information as to where they are in terms of the entire process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, we are in the process of planning and we have tried to come up with an actual list so that we can start progressing on this file. There are various factors and challenges we face in the communities, but we will continue to try and make progress. If any unforeseen circumstances crop up, then I'll let the member know. At this time, they're trying to resolve the various challenges that they have, what would be the most effective and efficient way of dealing with these issues. So they're coming up with a list of options as to how best we can deal with it. I believe it will be ongoing and it will be completed before the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin.

Question 528 – 3(2): Discrimination in the Workplace

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister for Qulliq Energy and for CG&S and it is regarding discrimination in the workplace.

My understanding is that in some cases, there has possibly been discrimination against Inuit in the workplace. In some cases, there has been discrimination against people from Pakistan and even from the West Indies. In other cases, gays and lesbians and in some cases, even women are being discriminated against.

My question is: what is the minister doing to deal with discrimination in the workplace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is for the Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Discrimination in the workplace will not be tolerated by the Qulliq Energy Corporation. As I know of right now, I am not aware of any discrimination that is happening, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, there are three lawsuits on the go, and I understand that the minister can't talk about it, and one is from an Inuk in Baker Lake and two are from women who used to work here in Cape Dorset. My understanding is that there is a possibility, and I didn't say there was, of some discrimination in these cases.

So my question is: what is the minister doing to make sure that there aren't going to be other cases coming forward from people being discriminated against? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Speaker, maybe my colleague has better stats and information than I do, but I only am aware of one court case or two people and nothing with Baker Lake, so maybe you might want to share that information. I can't work on assumptions, Mr. Speaker. I should say right now that I am not aware of any

discrimination in the workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I don't know if there is a lawsuit on the go, but apparently there was an Inuk in Baker Lake who was fired from his position and I think it had something to do with him being an Inuk, and that's all I'm saying right now. Maybe the minister should follow up and find out what's going on, but my understanding is that he was fired because he was an Inuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. The firing had nothing to do with the individual's race. The individual who was let go under mutual agreement happened to be an Inuk, Mr. Speaker.

Being a beneficiary myself, and even if I wasn't, I would not tolerate any discrimination in any workplace that I have a say in, Mr. Speaker. There was absolutely nothing to do with discrimination in terms of the letting go of the individual in question. In that, Mr. Speaker, the individual had a confidential agreement clause and QEC will respect that agreement. Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik would now like to ask a question.

Question 529 – 3(2): Regional Treatment/Healing Centres

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

We have heard that there will be a treatment centre opened in the regions. With regard to the treatment centre that will be placed in the Kitikmeot, I would like to know if this will be placed in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. During our budget review, there was information related to how the centres would be planned out. We have to revise part of our design plans, but to date, we cannot say how it will turn out exactly.

What I can state is this: if Cambridge Bay is determined to be the site, it would be because they have a facility they can convert to a centre. It has been brought up from time to time when we have discussed these facilities, and we will continue to keep the community in mind when making that decision. We also need a treatment centre for the Baffin region. Those are the priorities we currently have.

With respect to the final plans, we have not reached that stage yet. We still have to finalize parts of it. It is currently being worked on by the Mental Health Division in Cambridge Bay and they are

working on the plans for a centre in that community. When we are dealing with the main estimates, we will be able to provide more details on this matter.

However, we know for a fact that the funding for the Community Wellness Program falls short of the demands. We try to provide assistance to people who have concerns about alcohol abuse and they have some assistance via that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add to my question. In Kitikmeot, when you are working on programs and services that will be within the treatment centre, I would like to suggest that our hamlets in the region are involved during the consultation process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The supplementary question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I find it pleasant to hear that we have full support of all of the communities in the regions with respect to the need to provide treatment.

What we can state currently is that we are working out the details related to the centres, and our capital planners are working on the final costs of the facilities and also seeing if we have the available resources here in Nunavut. We are looking for people who would administer and manage the facility.

We don't have a lot of people well versed in substance abuse and we would have to train workers further when the facilities are established. However, we need to consult the communities because we need their assistance to determine the programs and services they would like to have in the treatment centres. We have many people who are willing to provide assistance.

I will let the member know exactly where we are, as the plans are being finalized, and we will ensure that we consider all of the comments that have been voiced on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been informed that the treatment centre had been proposed to be placed near the settlement of Umingmaktok. It is currently home to a tourism facility and it would also be a treatment centre if this proceeds. Will this project be approved for that place? I would like to understand since treatment centres have a different mandate than healing centres and I know that they offer programs. So I would like to know which type of facility it will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, I cannot exactly tell you what it will look like. We are in the development stages of the program and

services. During our budget session for 2011-12, we will have to discuss what kind of programs will have to be offered at the centre. We are just working on the planning stages at this point.

In Cambridge Bay, there is a facility already in place. We are thinking about Cambridge Bay, but there are other communities as well, like Coral Harbour, where they have a men's health support group. There are lots of men's organizations coming up and being established. We are considering that as well.

We are in the planning stages of how we are going to create all of those programs and services into the treatment centre. We want to make sure that we have a proper healing centre without having to send people outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Do you have anything else to add? Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq.

Question 530 – 3(2): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In October, the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy was released and within that strategy, it had stated that "the Partners commit to finalize an Action Plan to be released within three months of the release of the Strategy." I was just wondering if the minister could update the House on what is happening with that action plan. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. The suicide strategy of Nunavut, including our partners in Embrace Life Council and NTI, is a very important document. It's a living document and it's one that is being considered for further work, as the member indicated. The implementation plan is being worked on right now.

The advice that I have from the departmental officials is that they are slightly behind the actual agreement that they are working on, but they hope to have it done within a month. I was assured that it will be done by the middle of March. We are sticking to that plan. We want to see that action plan finalized and signed on so that we can get some of the funding programs directly to the communities and carry on the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the successful outcomes that the minister had sort of reported back from last year's success with the program was the ASIST workshops. I'm just wondering: are the ASIST workshops going to be happening again this year in communities? I remember, I think, in Pond Inlet, there was training of teachers that had happened up there. Is that still happening as part of the implementation process? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not directly involved in the formulation of the action plan. I know that the partners are optimistic that the plan will be developed. Once it's finalized, it will definitely be presented to me and I will want to share it with my colleagues as well. So whatever is in the document, which all parties are hoping to have completed so that they can get on with the work, I'm sure that will be something that they are considering. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if I understand correctly, the actual action plan or implementation plan hasn't been rolled out because, over the next couple weeks in session, we will be reviewing O&M and business plans for each government department. So you are saying that within each government department, that plan has not actually been "actioned" for this coming fiscal year. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I think the question is in two parts, if I understand it. One is that the action plan, which supports the main strategy, will be rolled out some time next month and the parties are getting quite close to signing on to that implementation plan. In terms of the budget proposal, the budget

allocations are contained in the main estimates and I'm sure that the member will have a lot of questions once we get to that line item. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the minister knows me very well.

Since we won't be in session when this document comes out, would he commit to forwarding a copy to us at our email accounts so that we can see what it looks like and how it's going to roll out once it's actually finished? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will commit to that, and we will try and expedite forwarding it to all of the MLAs and my colleagues on this side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I wish to advise you that question period is now over. We can now move on to Item 7. Written Questions. There are no hands up, so we can now move on to Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions*

*See Appendix 2 for full text of Return to Written Question 22 – 3(2) filed with the Clerk.

**Return to Written Question 022 –
3(2): New Nunavut Housing
Directorate Office in Iqaluit**

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the response to Written Question 22 – 3(2). Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to Written Questions. That is all, so we can now go to Item 9 in the *Orders of the Day*. Replies to Opening Address. There are no hands up, so we can now move on to Item 10. Petitions. There being none, we will go to (interpretation ends) Item 11. (interpretation) Responses to Petitions. There are no hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 12. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. There are no hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Member for Baker Lake.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 266 – 3(2): Baker
Lake’s INAC Water Use
Inspection Report**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Member Ningark. I wish to table today a copy of the most recent water use inspection report which was prepared by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for my community of Baker Lake.

As a courtesy to the government, I wish to advise that I will have detailed questions on this matter at tomorrow’s sitting. I encourage the Minister of CGS and his staff to be prepared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Nanulik.

**Tabled Document 267 – 3(2):
Chesterfield Inlet and Coral
Harbour’s INAC Water Use
Inspection Report**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to table today copies of the most recent water use inspection reports which were prepared by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour.

As a courtesy to the government, I wish to advise that I will have detailed questions on this matter at tomorrow’s sitting. I encourage the Minister of CGS and his staff to be prepared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister of Community and Government Services has a document to table.

**Tabled Document 268 – 3(2): Qulliq
Energy Corporation’s Corporate
Plan 2011-2016**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I am pleased to table the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s Corporate Plan from 2011 to 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Quttiktuq has a document to table.

**Tabled Document 269 – 3(2):
Correspondence to the Nutrition
North Canada Advisory Board**

**Tabled Document 270 – 3(2):
Correspondence to the Nutrition
North Canada Advisory Board**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two letters that I recently sent to the chairperson of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board outlining a number of issues of concern with respect to the important new federal program. I urge all members to review these documents with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Tabled Document 271 – 3(2):
Speaker's List of Outstanding
Statutory Tabling Requirements**

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. There are no more hands up, so we can now move on to... . I am sorry. I have a document to table.

I wish to table today a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. This list is current as of the end of the November 4, 2010 sitting of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 14 in our *Orders of the Day*. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance.

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

**Bill 52 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2009-
2010 – Notice**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2011, that Bill 52, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Proceed.

**Bill 53 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
4, 2010-2011 – Notice**

**Bill 54 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2010-
2011 – Notice**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, since I'm standing up anyway. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2011, that Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2011, that Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. There are no more hands up. Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Item 17. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation

ends) Item 18. (interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. (interpretation) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2) with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 15:17 and Committee resumed at 15:51

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence our review of Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2). (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement to deal with the tabled documents?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Tabled Document 210 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Review of Nunavut Housing Trust – Consideration in Committee

Tabled Document 212 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Trust Project Status Summary, September 30, 2010 – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Curley, if you could please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Nunavut Housing Corporation

President, Alain Barriault, and to my left is our Chief Financial Officer, Lori Kimball. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to welcome you and your staff to the committee meeting. I would like to ask members if they have any general comments or questions before we begin. I believe there are no general comments. Our first item is Tabled Document 207 – 3(2). Are there any questions on this document? (interpretation ends) Do you have any questions on document 207? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on this contracting here. A lot of these projects were done by LHOs. At one time, they didn't have the figures on it. So I would ask the minister if they have the figures now as to how the cost compared with LHOs as to the contractors doing the projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have the finance officer here on my left, Lori, respond to that. Thank you.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to what is cheaper, LHO delivery or contractor delivery, it really is unique. Area by area, we have seen in some communities that delivered with better costs than contracting and we have seen other communities where the costs ran over budget. There were quite a bit more than with contractors or using contractors, so there's a wide range. There is no one answer for that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I bring that up is because I know in some communities, and I will not mention which one, but it was actually the housing corporation that had hired somebody for the project through to LHO, and then there was some M&Is that were done in that community. Apparently, the guy who was running the job for the housing corporation, his brother-in-law got the contract for the M&Is and the local contractor was left out of the loop.

Apparently these jobs were done at the same time and basically they used the same housing, they used the same equipment, the same vehicles, and they said they were done at the same time. They worked during the day at the trust and then in the evening, they worked doing these two M&Is, and I just don't see how that's possible to be doing that. Number one, I am sure Workers' Compensation has rules as to how many hours are worked. Is the corporation aware of such situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of that, but I'm sure that our president, Mr. Barriault, will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not aware of any cases of that occurring. If the member

does have any specific cases he would like to take to our attention, then we could investigate that. We are aware, however, that some of the staff who were employed for the housing trust projects as LHO employees also assisted LHOs in doing modernization and improvement repairs on their own buildings. If there are any specific concerns, then we can address those on a case-by-case basis. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will bring the information to it.

It was brought to the attention of the Nunavut Housing Corporation in Cape Dorset, but apparently they didn't do anything about it. I'm not talking about them using employees from LHOs to do other stuff, I'm talking about some of these employees who are working also for the trust are also working for private contractors that got the contract who happened to be the brother-in-law of the guy in charge of the housing trust and there seems to be quite a conflict there.

I can understand if they only chose to use somebody at the trust and they used them to do their own work, I have no issue with that, but I think this is a serious breach. How do you keep track of where they are working and where they are billing the time to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we would be glad to investigate any specific

situations. If the member can bring that to my attention, I will follow up on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. I would like to apologize for not having informed the regular members that if you have questions, you can ask from any of the documents that are presented before you, not necessarily just one document. It is wide open. Any other questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his staff for appearing as witnesses. In the Nunavut Housing Corporation contracting report, I have a question on page 2 of 19. Summary of Section A - Major Construction Contract Types. Under NNI Status, I have a question. What is the difference between NNI, NTI/Inuit, and local? I thought that would be one and the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Maybe I ought to state the explanation in Inuktitut with respect to NTI. With respect to Inuit owned companies here in Nunavut, they are increasing in number. NTI is responsible for administering their status as per the NLCA and they have certain criteria used to determine which company is indeed an Inuit company.

About 15 years ago, NTI introduced the policy to define Inuit owned companies by giving them a certificate. This was also when I was involved. The certificate identifies the company as an Inuit owned company. If the Inuit ownership is above

51 percent, whether that is a sole proprietor or otherwise, if NTI recognizes the ownership as being Inuit, then a certificate is issued. If you go to any Inuit owned company operating, you will see their certificate on their wall.

With respect to the NNI Policy, it was negotiated prior to 1999 by the parties and it was grandfathered as a GN policy that replaced the BIP. If there is an RFP and you bid on a contract, whether to CGS or other departments, then your status as an Inuit company and the number of Inuit hires you have can also be issued as points in your bid, even if your bid was higher.

That is the difference between them and I am explaining the NNI Policy in Inuktitut so that it can be more understandable. NNI is a GN policy and is not part of the NTI administered programs. That is what we call NNI. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to NNI, what do the acronyms stand for? Nunavummi Nangminiliit Inuit... . I cannot remember what it stands for. Is it Nunavummi Nangminiliit... ? What does the "I" stand for?

Yes, I understand that they get a credit or percentage. Perhaps 7 percent is the largest benefit you can get under the NNI Policy.

NNI stands for Nunavummi Nangminiliit... . I cannot remember what that "I" stands for. Can you

enlighten me, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NNI stands for Nunavummi Nangminiqqtunik Ikajuuti. *Ma'na*.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Well done. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: You are more articulate in Inuktitut than I am. Good for you. Under the Nunavummi Nangminiqqtunik Ikajuuti, how many points do you get under this, 7 percent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): In following the NNI Policy, the criteria has different aspects, such as a Nunavut company owned by Inuit would receive points. When the bid is being evaluated, they also look at the number of Inuit hires and that also receives points based on the criteria. If you qualify under all of the criteria, your bid can receive over 20 points to lower it. (interpretation ends) So they would get a credit, (interpretation) even if your bid is higher, by 20 percent. For example, if the company receives 21 points, then their bid is adjusted accordingly and it can make their bid seem smaller. That is how the process works.

That's why this NNI Policy is utilized heavily by the companies that don't seem to be Inuit owned companies. Once

they get a joint venture Inuit partner, they state that they are an Inuit company. This is usually in the RFP process. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, if they are registered in Nunavut and they have an office, that's when they are eligible for Inuit firm status. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so we're clear, it's a legally registered company. You have to be registered, either have a local licence from the municipality or you could be an incorporated company, so that constitutes who owns the company. The mechanism would indicate exactly who owns the company. If they're an Inuit owned company, if you're local, it's not hard to figure out. If you are a partnership company, you would likely be able to get that through the limited company or incorporated company. So it's a legal provision. It depends on the number of who owns the majority of the shares.

NTI would have to do quite a thorough analysis and assessment whether or not, in fact, it's legally Inuit owned. They do a search on who owns the shares in the company. The contracting managers, like the housing corporation, or CGS, or any other agency, don't make the determination of who is an Inuit owned company. We depend on NTI's

documents. They are the ones that do the assessments.

If they have a legal document, like a certificate from NTI, that's accepted that the company is also licensed under the NNI Policy. Also, the contracting agent, like the Housing Corporation or CGS, has a registry also. They are registered in their legal registry kind of thing, no so much a registry but at least a record of a company that proves or claims to be an Inuit company or any other Nunavut owned businesses, which normally means non-Inuit companies.

So they have a whole slew of lists of companies. One is the NNI criteria; NTI criteria provisions. I know it can get complicated. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a major or any other construction contract types, one is the reporting process between the construction and the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Is it quarterly? How often are you made aware of the projects as it moves ahead, phase 1, phase 2, and so forth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the member can clarify his question. If he's talking about a project, there are a whole slew of them and they depend on a number of progresses. One is you may use some progress by, whether the... They are probably up to standard. The inspectors are really quite important. First of all,

the structural engineers have to go in when the piles are being built. So that also requires another set of inspectors and so on. Also, once it's shelled, you know, closed in, the housing corporation normally goes through an inspection process so that all of the codes are properly done.

But it depends, really, exactly what the member is asking about. I can have Alain Barriault explain a bit. If he's talking about a construction phase, we can go through it in detail. He may want to clarify his question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Perhaps, Mr. Ningark, you can do that.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman has told us that we can talk about the Nunavut Housing Corporation contracting report and we can also talk about the Nunavut Housing Trust.

I believe there was a \$200 million funding for housing projects. Yes, I am talking about timeframes for construction projects. I believe the reporting was not up to par and that's why the housing trust got into a mess. So was there any expectation that reporting would be made quarterly, yearly, on how well the construction was doing?

So that's my question, Mr. Chairman. It's about the project, about the timeframe, about the reporting system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: We will have Mr. Barriault respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member. The Housing Corporation tracks all of its construction budgets on an ongoing basis. So each separate construction has a budget assigned to it and costs, as they are being invoiced and paid for, are tracked through our financial management system. In addition, we provide monthly reporting to the GN Department of Finance on our capital budgets as well as our operating costs.

So we have a number of different reporting mechanisms and different financial controls. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, all of that mess that we got into with the housing trust, was it an oversight? What did happen? I know it has been asked over and over, but what really did happen? Why did we get into the deep mess with the Nunavut trust funding of \$200 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main problems that resulted in the over-commitments were a lack of proper budgeting and a lack of tracking and forecasting of costs to completion.

Originally when the Nunavut Housing Trust was conceived, the assumption was made that all of the houses could be built at a given price and that there

would be no cost increases during the length of the housing trust program, which was over a number of years. All of these assumptions were based on building five-plex units only. However, during the course of the housing trust, there was a variety of building types that were built that had different cost factors, and the costs of materials, labour, and fuel all increased from year to year. In the end, adjustments were not made to reflect these costs. So what wound up happening is that there were more houses committed to be built than there was budget to do so.

So when the problem was identified with the new management of the housing corporation, we realized that there was not enough funding to build the 725 houses which were committed, and this is the issue which was brought forward to cabinet at that time. Rather than reduce the number of houses to be constructed, housing was determined to be a priority capital program and as such, additional funding was allocated so that the original number of houses could be built. But effectively, it was a matter of lack of controls and forecasting which are now in place. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to start by asking questions from the Nunavut Housing Corporation contracting report, which is Tabled Document 207 – 3(2). On page 14 of 19 and 15 of 19, it starts from line 1 all the way down to around line 63. The majority of those entries are for contracts which are sole source contracts awarded for financial services. I was just

wondering if the minister could explain why.

Again, just going from his news release that he announced seven positions or something that they are moving from Arviat, which I think Minister Shewchuk alluded to in his Member's Statement about having positions leaving his community where of concern, why is there so much being spent on financial services if you have people who are already working in those positions? If you could just explain. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a total of eight positions that are being relocated from Arviat in the Finance Division to Iqaluit, but there are only three indeterminate employees affected as a result of this move. One of the challenges that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has had over the years is to fill these higher level finance positions, so we've had to rely on a number of consultants to fulfill these functions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That brings up another question. It seems like they have the same problem that we have across the board in terms of financial positions. By moving these positions to Iqaluit, do you feel that you will actually be able to fill them? If you had problems in the past, are we going to continue see these types of sole source contracts going for financial services? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Part of the rationale behind the relocation is not just the difficulties we've had filling the positions, it is also the lack of the ability to communicate using current GN infrastructure. As I mentioned the last time we were here, one of the challenges is we can't share any files. Recently, the GN made a change. We can't send any files larger than 5 Megs; the files that we have to track these large projects are up to 200 Megs. Literally we would have to copy it onto a stick or a CD and mail it to Arviat to have communication back and forth. So that is going to be a huge help going forward is having everybody in the same office and we can be more productive. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That brings up another question. I understand the positions being moved and the idea that obviously we want good financial management. You are saying that these are sole sourced because you needed the information quickly. Why weren't they tendered out? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of these positions that are listed in these contracting reports are some that require specialized skills and a lot of those skills can only be obtained by having performed similar type of work or being familiar with the software or the systems that are in use. Many of

the software systems used by the GN and the Nunavut Housing Corporation are developed specifically for uses of the housing corporation, so there are limited numbers of people who have the familiarity and can be productive. That is why a lot of these are sole sourced rather than tendered. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason we're here is, and I think Mr. Barriault talked about it, that things are in place now because of some of the problems that were occurring in the past. Obviously going back in hindsight, proper budgeting so there was no over-commitment would have been nice, but now you're saying that the tracking mechanisms are in place and things should start to run smoothly; another positive aspect.

I think that's what we're trying to find out as regular members, to make sure that things are being tracked properly. By bringing the positions here, it will actually give you guys the opportunity at the Nunavut Housing Corporation to do your job better. Is that what you're saying? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By moving the positions here, we are hopeful and we are quite positive in thinking that we will be able to do our job better, that we will be able to fill these positions and not have to rely on contracted services so we can have indeterminate employees and continuity in those positions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a corporation, apart from the Government of Nunavut, do you ask or request assistance from the Department of Human Resources to help fill those positions? If it's so hard to fill those positions, are you able to access that support from that department? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation does use the services of GN Human Resources to recruit its staff. We continue to do so and we work closely with that department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting back to the questions in regard to the moving of the eight positions from Arviat, I know that questions were asked earlier today to the Premier about decentralization and whatnot. If eight positions are moved from Arviat, do they have to put eight positions back in? Is that something that Minister Curley could answer? In terms of discussions, are those positions actually going to be lost in that community or will they be replaced? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's unrelated to me in my view.

The corporation has to be able to function and carry out its mandate pursuant to the legal instruments, and it had failed to do that, not only because of the eight positions that we moved here, it was also the management that was really not taking responsible actions and taking steps to ensure that proper budgeting that should have been directed by the senior managers were not taking place. So it was the combination of a number of them that eventually caught up with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and senior managers at the previous administration were not able to nor did they take time to really correct what might have not been a problem.

Despite the fact that the Auditor General had indicated some serious concerns about the direction of the housing corporation, as well as the standing committees of the legislature of the day, it had to take this current management to identify the weaknesses and really recommend, which is unavoidable, to have proper management and controls as well as finance in one shop so that proper tracking of public funds can be carried out and ensure that the corporation is really at arm's length without political interference, which we have been forced to do so during the course of the year right now.

It's very difficult right now because of the way in which the corporation is structured. It has senior managers acting as the board of directors. In my view, you can easily say, "Isn't there a conflict in there if the senior managers only are directing the corporation?" So in order to avoid that, this cabinet has, not only with the eight positions, recommended that there be a new board of governors in place so that they can make a proper

decision on behalf of the people of Nunavut.

With these steps that we have taken, I think it's on the recovery side right now and the financial tracking systems that we have now are current and up to date, and we certainly would like to see these continue. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Perhaps part of Mr. Elliott's question was whether or not there would be positions given back to the community of Arviat. Minister, perhaps if you could also elaborate on that. Thank you.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I thought I addressed it because I thought that was separate and that was unrelated to me.

Since the inception of my constituency, a number of departments moved, including the Department of Education and Arctic College, to Arviat and the housing corporation moved to Arviat and to Baker Lake, there were other departments, as well as the power corporation at that time from Rankin Inlet to Baker Lake. There was no consideration whatsoever whether or not a comparable position would be moved to Rankin Inlet. So when they moved that, there were only about, I say, two-thirds of the current housing corporation staff was moved. It has increased. The incremental increase were nowhere even near that.

At the moment, I cannot really speak about whether or not we would replace these positions because those will more than double what we're asking for the public to spend. So in that regard, what I say to my colleague here from Arviat is

that Arviat will remain a district office. As a district office, the region will continue to grow. Therefore, there is a chance that these positions that we have moved will eventually, in the end, within a number of few years, there will probably be some increase, but we don't want to speculate how many would be the case. Arviat remains the headquarters of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, despite the fact that the directorate was moved by the previous administration long ago.

But during the exercise we had, we already did create one new PY and that has to do with a finance position. As well, as a result of this position being moved, there was also another position created in Arviat. So that's just like an improvement on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. That gives me hope because if that is possible, then hopefully we would be able to get some Government of Nunavut employees coming up to the High Arctic to work for us up there too.

I would like to go back to this document, the Nunavut Housing Corporation contracting report. On page 14 of 19, there is a table at the top and it talks about methods of selection. If you look at it, it's kind of surprising that out of the \$1.1 million that was given out in contracts or consulting, \$870,000 of that was sole source contracts and public request for proposals was only \$193,000 and then negotiated contracts, I'm assuming, were \$87,000. I'm just

wondering: why is that so high? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to that is basically the same as to the previous question. Many of these consultant contracts are for very specialized work and there are limited people available with those skills. So until we can fill those positions as indeterminate positions within the housing corporation, we are and remain reliant on these consultants. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of being accountable and the access of money, who actually makes the decision on this in terms of whether it's a sole source contract? Is that the president's sole choice or is there a process that you follow through to decide who gives out these contracts? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation would sign off and make the final approval for sole source contracting. There is a process that is followed to ensure that the sole source contracting is justified and the sole source contracts are only issued when other tendering or contracting options are not conducive to the work that we are trying to do. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess we give you a lot of power to spend a lot of money.

Is this going to be addressed with some of the...? I was going to have questions later in reference to some of the changes that are happening, but will this sort of amount of power that you have to spend close to a million dollars on sole source contracts, with the board that is supposed to be set up, will that take away some of that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Currently at the moment, I think you have to appreciate the fact that the amount of sole source contracting certainly has improved right now because many of these were due to the fact that, as my staff has indicated, in view of the lack of capacity at that time, specialized skills were required.

But I think the member has to understand that sole sourcing contracts is not only the prerogative that is used by the housing corporation; it isn't only restricted to the housing corporation. The ADMs or DMs have that authority to sign off on sole source contracts. So there are provisions that, if permissible, may not be the best tools to use. Therefore, in my opinion, we either should tighten up the contracting administration or NNI Policy.

I use that reference because GN's NNI Policy, the Inuit land claims related policy, prior to division, had a provision

in there, that Article 24 provision, at that time, which this Nunavut government did not use. They had a provision where if it's related to sole source with Article 24, the GNWT, at that time, was still required to provide a notice publicly that it intends to sole source contracts and invite the public out there or Inuit owned companies to agree or disagree.

So if there is a disagreement, the government immediately had to put it out to public tender. That has now been left out of the current GN NNI Policy. How do I know that? I know it because I was the negotiator for the Article 24 contracting policy with the GN through NTI. So that's why there is a lot of these sole source contracts going on, because it's not tied in with the NNI Policy provisions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. I'm very aware that deputy ministers are able to sign off on sole source contracts. I'm aware of it because I remember I took a mental note when we were doing the procurement and you had made the commitment to decrease the number of sole source contracts within your department for the other hat you wear at Health and Social Services, so I am very aware of that.

But with the explanation that you just gave, where I get concerned is in the table just beside that where it actually says NNI classification, zero dollars from that year was allocated to people who were either sole source contract or any type of contract given. The percentage is zero NNI under that year,

so that's why it was a concern for me. If we're going to promote NNI and if we're going to continue to have Inuit businesses be successful, we need to make sure that we're either working with those companies to have it happen.

The next question that I wanted to move on to was on page 15 of 19. From about item 65 onto the next page, onto page 16, there are a lot of contracts, which again are sole source contracts for technical services, but there is one that stood out in my mind for two reasons: one, it was because the location of the winner was in Morrisburg and that location seems to come up many times in our discussions, it's Nimiqcon Consultants, technical services provided, but the second reason it jumped out at me is it was the one that received the most money in terms of about \$55,000 but it wasn't one contract at \$55,000, it was a number of them. I was wondering if the minister could explain what that person was consulting about or what technical skills they were bringing to the housing corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nimiqcon Consultants Incorporated is a company owned by Bill Gofton, who was a previous director, LHO manager, LHO maintenance manager, and filled a number of positions with the NWT and Nunavut Housing Corporation over decades, I believe. Nimiqcon Consultants was contracted by the previous administration to provide services to the Nunavut Housing Corporation basically due to a lack of capacity, is my understanding. So

operations needed to continue, so this person who had that knowledge was contracted.

Each of the lines on this report, by the way, is payments rather than individual contracts. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That actually helps with my next question because 73, 74, and 75 are consulting contracts negotiated that were given to Aarluk Consulting and I thought there were three separate, but I'm assuming it's just one contract. Was it for this document, the Review of Delivery Strategy Implementation Stage 1? It's marked down as NHT Review Project Report. I am wondering if that's what it was for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document that the member held up was indeed contracted to Aarluk Consulting. I'm also aware that Aarluk Consulting was contracted to provide the Nunavut Housing Corporation's corporate strategy document around that time as well. So I'm not certain if those payments relate to that specific document or to some other work performed by Aarluk. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott, you have 29 seconds left, so I will remind you that I will move on to the next person who was to ask

questions, but I'll let you have the last 29 seconds. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're here for three weeks, so I can go around again for another 10 minutes.

On the next page, on page 16, on 91 and 92, there are two payments for \$49,767 paid to Nuna Burnside Environmental Engineering for professional services. One is in September of 2008 and the other one is for October 2008. I was wondering if you could clarify what that was for. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to find that information for you as we speak in my papers. Nuna Burnside had originally been engaged to start the work on the hosing strategy. However, there was a switch in contractors at some point and this was before my time. The strategy was then completed by Aarluk, I believe. I believe as well that Nuna Burnside provided some environmental consultations that may have been related to some oil spill remediation as well. So that's something, if the member required it, that we could get details to him. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Perhaps, Mr. Elliott, I will recognize you at some point later. I have other names that I wish to move on with. You will have your full 10 minutes again whenever that comes up. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. In Gjoa Haven, they are currently working on constructing these multi-plex

units, and with the approval of the funding to finish these units, they are trying to finish them as Nunavummiut drastically require housing.

One of the workers spoke to me about his concerns and he asked me while I was there on a tour about the need for better care of Inuit workers by the contractors. According to the worker, the contractors tend to hire Inuit at a certain number at the beginning of the contract, but during the life of the contract, it seems that more Inuit workers are released as the finishing becomes the focus. Sometimes at the end, they only have one Inuit worker. Some are fired and some are released.

The person felt that the reason for this practice was that the contractors usually have their own workers who are brought in from the outside. They arrive into the community but they seem unhappy to be in the community as they become belligerent to their Inuit workers, and all of the hard work that the contractors are unwilling to do is given to the Inuit workers. Even though it hurts him, that particular Inuit employee doesn't make a big issue of this because he needs the income. Usually when you are hired, most employers have to comply with a code of ethics.

I doubt that we will have new contractors in the future. If we are to keep these contractors, then we should require that they implement a code of ethics, especially in the communities. All contractors should treat Inuit properly since they are the ones who live here. If we are going to hire contractors that mistreat their Inuit employees, then most Inuit at the local level lose interest in working for these contractors. If the

contractors are going to be hiring at the local level, then a code of ethics should be enforced so that they can be penalized.

I wanted to comment on this matter because once all of the housing funding was allocated, it seemed that only outside contractors were being hired. With respect to this Inuk from Gjoa Haven, whom I shall not name, he spoke about his concerns that he has experienced in this field. If contractors have the bad habit of belittling Inuit who are just trying to hold a job, then they should be penalized. I wanted to inform the Nunavut Housing Corporation about this issue.

In looking at these figures, in Taloyoak, the contractors for two separate five-plex were paid \$1 million while another contractor was paid \$600,000 to construct the same type of unit. The local housing authority did the construction on the cheaper unit. There is such a big discrepancy between these two figures. Why is it that there is such a big difference? Can you provide a reason? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. The contractors who are awarded contracts to perform construction for the Nunavut Housing Corporation usually are responding to a request for bids. As such, they are requesting to win and be awarded a contract to go into those communities. If some of their individual staff are not happy with the situations, then there's not too much that we can do to control that.

Generally speaking, though, any contractor going into any community will find that there is a skilled workforce in every community, and it is to their advantage to treat those employees properly and to retain them as employees because they will save themselves the costs of having to fly in other workers. So it's to their benefit to treat employees properly.

Employees, meanwhile, are paid according to an agreement that they have, which is an employment agreement directly with the contractor as their employer. There are rules that regulate minimum wages within Nunavut. In terms of setting other wages and what those may be, that is an agreement directly between the contractor as the employer and the employee.

So I trust that has answered your issues. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I personally know that neither you nor I are overseeing the construction workers, so we don't hear the harsh words being said. I believed the individual from Gjoa Haven who stated that their foreman is very cantankerous and continually scolding them as if they were kids. I think we should have a code of ethics included in the contract if these contractors want to be paid by the Nunavut government. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the Nunavut Housing Corporation uses the standard contracting practices of the GN, so we're using the standard conditions and terms for contracts, which do not include a code of conduct. That is not something that has necessarily been entertained in the past to my knowledge. There are rules which are basically standing laws within Nunavut and within Canada that apply to any workplace, including labour standards. The means at this point for any employees of any company, whether it's a contractor or otherwise, if they feel they're being mistreated in their workplace, is to complain through the *Labour Standards Act*, if I understand that process correctly. Likewise, though, if there are any major issues with any housing corporation worksites, we would like to be informed of that so that we can investigate as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Yes, my other question relates to Taloyoak, where there were a couple of five-plex units being constructed with a disparity between the final amounts by quite a large sum. What is the reason for this discrepancy? There is a \$400,000 difference between these two contracts even though the units built were the exact copies in terms of size and scope. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand correctly, in Taloyoak, there have been a number of different buildings that have been

tendered for construction at different times.

Depending on who is providing bids and a number of factors, different prices will be obtained. In some cases, we will get very competitive bidding between numbers of contractors and get a very good price. In other cases, we may have less competition and contractors may choose to bid higher prices. That is something that is outside of our control as, if you're referring to five-plex construction in particular, these buildings are relatively identical from year to year as we tender them. So it's just a matter that's beyond our control. We still proceed to public competition to get prices, though. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault.
Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I would like to refer to another matter related to Taloyoak and construction. They are currently driving piles into the bedrock as the foundations for these SIP units. Based on the outlines of the lot and the lack of gravel on the outside perimeter, the municipal trucks won't be able to service these units. I believe it will need additional costs to ensure the proper grade with gravel as most houses are provided with a gravel foundation. When the piles are driven in, the telehandlers and heavy equipment trucks will not be able to reach around these piles. Do you know anything about that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation) I wish to reiterate that when reviewing the tabled documents, members have to remember that we are talking about past projects within these documents. I wanted to remind you to

ask questions to the issues in the document, not past projects or projects currently underway. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our decision on the foundation type in communities depends very much on the sites that are available to build on.

From what I understand in the Taloyoak situation, we were able to place piles for one of the seven houses that are to be built there. Part of the problem then was accessing the terrain because some of the building lots were on very rough terrain, so the pile equipment could not be brought to the site without more gravel work being done to even access the site. So that's caused a delay for the construction in Taloyoak.

We do look overall at what the site situation is and if we have to put too much gravel, then that becomes costlier than putting piles in. So we have to look at the costs based on the site and make the decision accordingly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the review of the Nunavut Housing Trust under the subheading "Opportunities for Improvement," the review for the housing corporation has identified that one area is to improve skills in the system; limitations in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's accounting system. One essential point identified, Mr. Chairman, by the Auditor General's office was the communication between local housing organizations and the

headquarters of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As I made a statement earlier today, I would ask one more question to the minister of the housing corporation about what is happening in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, and the local housing association is very aware of these things, and this has to do with housing construction.

I have wanted to see that under the review, but it's not here. It's not under the Opportunities for Improvement. It's not under Inherent Risks and Challenges of the housing corporation. It's not identified. So I would ask the minister's office to ensure they don't lose sight of the work with the local housing organizations. Building affordable homes is under the mission statement of the housing corporation. That is to do with working with the local housing authorities.

So I would ask the minister to be very aware that local housing authorities are very much part of the system. It should have been noted under the Inherent Risks and Challenges because the communication between the local housing associations and the Government of Nunavut, in this case the Nunavut Housing Corporation, is an essential part of the system.

Will the minister ensure that your communication line with the local housing associations be improved as recommended by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the concern. I think we don't want to lose sight of the fact that in Nunavut, local housing associations are partners with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they are pretty well dependent on each other for planning as well as for cooperation in getting kind of work plans developed with coming years, and so on.

The housing corporation continues to have a number of staff, including in each region, there are a number of positions that are being created specifically to take part in liaison with the housing associations. They are called community development officers. They do hold consultations regularly with communities.

Managing large projects or a number of housing constructions continue to remain with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, unless it's contracted out to a local housing association or organization for project management. So we will continue to work on that. We will continue to find ways to improve our communication and that is something that we are committed to do.

If there are any problems in the field or in the community, we need to be informed quickly so that it doesn't go unnoticed or lost in view of time. So it's really quite critical that we be provided with information if there seems to be any problems associated either with our staff or the project management for all that matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman. Again I wanted to repeat that under the Opportunities for Improvement and under the risks and challenges of the review of the housing corporation, the housing corporation recognizes that there is limited staff capacity. The housing corporation also recognizes that “There is limited staff who have the required skills and competencies to implement many of its planned processes.” We understood that. Housing also understood the limitations in the housing corporation’s accounting system and “the inability to track multi-year projects and easily export data into useful financial/operational reports make it difficult to effectively review performance.” We know that.

But again I wanted to go back to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada that repeated that there has to be better communication lines between local housing associations and LHOs. So I wish that was included in the Opportunities for Improvement. That’s the end of my statement on this particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. There was no question, but does the minister wishes to comment on the statement made by Mr. Ningark?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I think communication is not one way, communication is two ways. That’s why I insisted that if there are any problems that communities are feeling that something is happening, we need to be informed from the other side and we are dependent on the information.

If there is anything that needs to be corrected and if there are any problems with the project management in terms of construction, in terms of performance of the contractor that gives the local housing association concerns, we need that communication from that community if they are concerned and/or the community development officers who come in from time to time be informed regularly.

Our office remains open and we will react and we will respond to try and improve anything that isn’t working right. We are committed to that. We want it. Like I said earlier, these are our partners and we depend on pretty well each other to make things happen. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An idea that came into force is that the communication between the local housing organizations and the minister’s office be included in the mission statement of the housing corporation. That’s one way of ensuring that there is a communication line open between the government and the communities to improve opportunities for improvement. That is my suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We take that as a suggestion. I’m sure it’s heard. We would like to move on to Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to this report here on the contracting and whatever, the Nunavut Housing Corporation contracting report,

if we go to page 18 and you look at items 2, 3, and 4, they're equipment for an oil spill and it's to the Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq, and that's for different amounts there; \$15,000, \$107,000, and \$50,000. My question is: what is that for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was related to an oil spill remediation in Qikiqtarjuaq. The hamlet, in consultation with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, had to build a containment berm to put contaminated soil in until it could be treated. So these costs are all related to basically isolating this material so that it wouldn't contaminate the environment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And then you go to items 6 and 7, it says, "Fuel Spill Cleanup" and it's awarded to a company. There are two different amounts there, one is for \$106,000 and the other one is for \$105,000. What is that for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding, Nunatta Environmental Services was contracted to actually do the cleanup, and ensure that the site where the original spill occurred was "remediated" in a manner satisfying legislation, while the work done by the Municipality of

Qikiqtarjuaq was in the disposal and containment of the contaminated material. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to No. 2, 3, and 4, the president had mentioned that that was for building a berm, but on the project name, it says, "Equipment for Oil Spill." So could he explain: is it to purchase equipment to do this work or was it actually doing the work for building the berm? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The description may be not as comprehensive as it should be. However, most of the work related to building the berm was the use of heavy equipment, so that's why the description would have been put in that fashion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, when you go to No. 9 and No. 10, there was some furniture for Iqaluit given to North West Company and it's the same amount twice there. I'm assuming that's a duplication, but I'm just double-checking because it's for the same location and the same amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that that was

actually two payments made and not duplicate payments or duplicate printing, but it's actually partial payment probably on the delivery of the furniture to the shipping company and then the balance paid on receipt in the community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the project that was done by a local contractor in Kimmirut, apparently he had to wait 90 days to get an electrical inspection done on it. What does the housing corporation do in cases like this where the gentleman has people waiting, paying them, and can't continue? They can't do the rough inspection for electrical and it takes 90 days for an electrical inspector to come there and inspect it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In situations of mandatory inspections, which involve boilers as well as electrical, the Nunavut Housing Corporation does work closely with CGS to try to ensure that CGS inspectors are aware of upcoming inspection requirements. We realized as well that CGS does have a limited number of inspectors and they have their own capacity challenges related to that. As well, the contractors are responsible for obtaining permits and giving advanced notice as to when they will be ready. So the Nunavut Housing Corporation does work with the contractors and with CGS to try to coordinate these inspections. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In case, apparently they had given notice halfway through and three weeks later, because the regular inspector was on holidays, they had this inspector from BC or whatever come down to fill in. He had flown to Kimmirut and because the plane was full, they didn't put his computer on. He went up to the First Air counter in Kimmirut being fairly rude and basically giving them heck for not having put the computer on. If he would have just paid a little more attention, he would have realized that they were sending another flight in, but he chose not to wait. He got on that same plane and went back to Iqaluit, and then the contractor had to wait another five weeks to get the inspection done.

Does the housing corporation compensate them for a lack of using common sense in regard to the electrical inspector? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a minister responsible for rough-in inspections, including electrical as well as the boilers. I think the Minister of CGS would like to comment on that. I'll give it back to you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, your facts are not correct. It wasn't an issue of no laptop on the plane that the individual had to return. It

was because the individual had a health issue and the proper medication to address the issue was not on the plane and therefore, he had to return back.

So if the baggage that my colleague is referring to had been there, everything would have been okay, but there are conditions and medical conditions some people have that require that medication to be there and it was not, and it was a health risk not to return immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, it's quite obvious that it's not the contractor's fault that he had to wait three months. So my question to the housing corporation is: does the housing corporation compensate the contractor, because this cost him money, in cases like this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's in the contract, you probably could do that. So far, I have not signed or instituted the word "not." I'm kidding.

>> *Laughter*

I think that's something that will be an ongoing occasion that will happen, but I think we possibly have better ways of improving that. My cabinet colleagues have commented on the fact that not only the housing corporation does require inspections. There are mandatory inspections required for private homes and private companies, and other

companies in building major infrastructure.

My colleagues have continued to try and find ways to increase the number of inspectors so that they are not putting tremendous pressure on the limited supply of inspectors that we do have. I think there are a number of ways that we can improve instead of compensating for loss of time or whatnot. We have enough financial pressures right now with the housing corporation, so I think we may be able to find a solution before long. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you are a local contractor, if you are a northern contractor, and if you are qualified for NNI, and I realize you are 7 percent for each category, is there a limit as to how much the contractor can get as a benefit? Is there a maximum dollar value or is it on the total amount of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't profess to be the NNI authority, but depending on the type of contract, there are limitations. Again I wouldn't want to commit, off the top of my head, as to which kinds, but for some contracting types, the adjustment is only made on the first \$100,000 or so of the bid, while other contracting types, it applies to the full contract value. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding qualifying for being an Inuit company, my understanding was that they would have to have a full-time manager in the territory here and they also have to do all of their business in Nunavut.

If you go on the website on some of these Inuit companies, you will see that their phone number is in Nunavut and their fax number is in Halifax, Nova Scotia. My question is: how do you monitor to make sure that these people are following the rules? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In determining if a company is considered Inuit owned, we rely wholly on the NTI registry of companies. So that is within their mandate to verify and to register companies as being Inuit owned. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. I'll be so kind to get back to Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for getting back to me.

The whole idea in the lines of questioning are getting to the point where we want to know what's in place and make sure that things are in place now, and mechanisms are there to make sure that if the federal government was willing to commit more money to the projects such as this, we are able to handle it. Obviously we need more houses in the territory. Overcrowding is a real problem.

Some of the things Mr. Barriault was saying was that mechanisms are now in place, and I remember from the Deloitte and Touche report, it mentioned that on a monthly basis, tracking would be done of material and costs so that no more over-commitment was made. I'm just wondering: was that followed through on? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this has been done. The housing corporation provides monthly reporting to GN Department of Finance, but as well, we do track internally on an ongoing basis all costs that are associated with our contracts, so we have established budgets. We have also established a process whereby change orders to contracts are reviewed at the directorate office before they are issued.

We have added some layers of control within our computer software systems. We have implemented some systems to be able to track things more closely, especially multi-year contracts. We continue to look for ways to improve those systems, including better software rather than some of the systems we are currently using. We have implemented controls. We realize that there are better ways of doing things and we are pursuing those as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also remember in the report it mentioned that for what they forecasted and what they were reporting on was up until

December 31 of 2010 and now we're into February of 2011.

With all of the controls you just said, as of December 31, 2010, were we on track in terms of the amount of money that was needed to finish the projects to that point? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: I can tell you to date under the NHT trust, we are up to about under \$1 million in change orders so far. We are tracking it project by project and, as Mr. Barriault mentioned, every time we get a new change order request, we do a review, look at the costs, and look at what that's going to do to the contingency that we already have reserved for this. In addition, we are doing re-forecasting for LHO delivered units to look at what the projected cost to completion is on them. So far, we are well within our \$6.2 million contingency on the NHT projects.

For the CEAP projects, as we are doing tenders and awarding, we are actually comparing the budgets as we are doing the commitment. We have allowed for a contingency based on the historical contingency factor that we saw that is referred to in the reports. So for example, for CEAP, we are using a 13 percent labour contingency, which will allow for future material change orders or if there are any issues with loss. So far, we are well within our budget on both NHT and CEAP. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were the SIP houses supposed to be all boarded up and finished by December 31 of 2010? I know, at least in my community, they are still working on those. Is that a change order that you would be talking about that continues to allow them to work or is that something that will come up later? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the contracts to close in the SIP units did state a December 15 closing date or completion date, and those dates were met in a number of communities and in others, they were not. The general contractor had issues with some of their subcontractors, and we have been working closely with them. A change order has been issued to put in a new completion date.

Specific to Arctic Bay, I believe the work is either completed now or complete this week. I have met with the general contractor twice today and he assures me that the work in Arctic Bay in particular is complete now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Barriault must have known that I was going to ask questions about Arctic Bay, so he was double-checking. Good job!

One of the things you could explain because I don't understand is if I do a contract with someone and say that I'm going to build a house for an X number

of dollars, then you sign on the dotted line and I thought that that was what happened, so doesn't the contractor or subcontractor have to eat...? If they don't meet the deadline, it's not our fault. It should be their fault. So why do we pay them more? Maybe you could explain to me because I don't understand why we do that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have issued a change order to change the completion dates on the contracts to which the member referred. However, this is at no cost to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, so I just want to make that clear. The longer the contractor takes to complete the work and has a work crew hired, then the higher the cost is to the contractor, but that does not increase the cost to the housing corporation. So we had a fixed price contract and that contract value has not changed as a result of any of this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. That does help and it makes a lot of sense to me.

The next question I have then is with all of these sorts of financial controls in place, I know that there are a lot, in talking to different housing managers, of material sitting in our communities all across Nunavut. Since you have been tracking things better and whatnot, do you have a dollar figure?

The biggest amount that we spent on the housing trust from the one report was on the materials and there is probably a lot of material still sitting in the communities. Do you have a dollar figure as to how much is sitting in our communities now? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do realize that there are surplus materials or leftover materials from the Nunavut Housing Trust construction in every community and we have been trying to identify that. It's still a work in progress. It is definitely a priority of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to identify what is there.

The material can be used if we have shortages on other construction, as well it can be used as part of the maintenance stock for local housing organizations. If there is material that is of no use to us in future construction or as maintenance, then we can look at means of disposing it and recovering some costs on that.

We have been taking steps to ensure that material is secure and inventoried, but it is a work in progress. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification because I want to make sure I heard Mr. Barriault correctly. In speaking to one of the housing managers, I was told that they were not allowed to touch the materials in the community even though they needed them to do some of the repair work within the community on different

projects. So are you saying that they're allowed to use that equipment?

One of the questions is: could you confirm that they're allowed to use this information? The second question is: who actually owns this material? Is it the housing association or is it the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A simple answer to that is anything the housing association owns, the housing corporation owns since we are their funding agent and they are our managing agent and partner in the communities but are wholly funded by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. All of the property and materials are actually property of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Any material that is surplus to construction while there is still other construction ongoing, the corporation has been trying to reserve that material in case it is needed rather than having to fly in material, for example, if we do find a shortfall at some point. Once those construction activities are completed, that's when we can discuss with the local housing organizations what materials can be of use to them as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the housing associations across the territory are being asked right now to do the inventory of what's in the

community, or who will be doing that inventory? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing the Nunavut Housing Corporation is cognizant of is the fact that local housing organizations do have their mandate in terms of providing maintenance services to public housing and to our tenants. However, they are also our partners in delivering housing and addressing priorities in the communities. So between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and our LHO partners, we will be undertaking this inventory and cleanup of materials this coming spring or when weather is more amenable to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Isn't it true that this all has to be done before the next sealift that comes along? It's now about \$3 million worth of sea cans sitting around in Nunavut that need to be shipped back south. I'm just wondering if the minister could confirm that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the challenges that we've had with our LHOs in most communities has been the lack of warehouse and storage space. We know that we have many warehouses that have not been replaced in over 20 years, so there have been some challenges in that area.

Before we dispose of any of the sea containers that were brought up as part of housing trust construction, we will first assess to see what can be used and what is practical to use for LHO storage, including storage of any surplus materials that may be of use. We will also look at means of disposal of those sea containers, whether it is to ship them back south or whether it is to sell them locally. So we will assess all of those different options before we decide. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those answers because it actually confirms some of the other questions that I was going to ask. Maybe if I could get some firm commitments. One would be: when do you think this inventory would be done? That way we will be able to know when it will be done, maybe a date of some sort. As well, when is this assessment of what sea cans will be and will not be shipped out?

Some of the concerns that the local housing authorities have is where are they going to put this stuff if they have to dump everything from other sea cans into one. They need time to be able to do that because, as you have mentioned, they already have their operational duties on a day-to-day basis to be providing services within the communities. So they are actually being strained on their services they are providing, which normally was contracted out to southern people too. So I think there is a little bit of animosity there.

As Mr. Curley said in our last meeting, we want to make sure that we are not overburdening our local housing authorities and recognizing the good work that they already do. Thanks.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I just wanted to comment a bit. I'm not 100 percent personally convinced there are a whole lot of materials that are leftover. That is not at all to minimize the need for having proper disposal guidelines or policies.

One area that I would like to consider that we consider when disposing extra material is the charity groups that have difficulty in getting materials to do maintenance stuff and so on in communities. So that's something that we may have to do, but I will work with the officials and see whether or not we can find, in consultation with the local housing associations, the best possible route because each community will have different stocks of extra material, and so on.

So it's important that we have those guidelines in place before we start actually proceeding with one month of disposing all of the materials throughout Nunavut. So they will stagger, there will be different times, and so on, but it's important that we have a proper disposal policy. That's something that I will commit to work with my housing corporation officials. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then the question would be: is there a contract? I'm sure you probably have a specific number as to how many sea cans there are in Nunavut that came up from the south. Do we actually own those or are they leased? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: The sea cans are all owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if the sea cans are actually sent south again, there would actually be some income that would come back to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Again we would have to look at costs and revenues. So there is a cost to shipping sea cans, even on a return leg, and we have to compare what that cost is compared to what we could sell them for in the south. It may not be practical. We don't want to be leaving a mess in every community, but if there are uses in the communities, then that may be a better alternative. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if local community members were interested in purchasing these sea cans, would they be allowed to contact the

local housing authority or would they have to contact the Nunavut Housing Corporation to purchase them? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Again I would like to remind the member that we are trying to deal with issues that have gone on in the past pertaining to the documents before us. We are not necessarily trying to look ahead at this point. I just want to remind you of that. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one option that the housing corporation will be looking at is, as I mentioned earlier, disposal within the community. If we choose to dispose of some locally, then we will make sure that it is available to all in a public fashion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was hoping to get confirmation in terms of the issue of the telehandlers. I know that there were a lot of questions before about costs and whatnot. In a conversation I had with someone, I just wanted to confirm for sure that the Nunavut Housing Corporation owns all of the telehandlers that are in the community. They are not leased. They belong to the local housing authority, as Mr. Barriault said, which is also the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the telehandlers that

were brought into the communities by the Nunavut Housing Corporation are indeed owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting to what the Chairman was talking about, I think part of the reason why we're asking the questions we are is to find out what mechanisms are in place to make sure that something like this doesn't happen again.

I'm wondering if the minister could explain. In terms of the board of directors that's being set up, I know that there was assistance given by the Minister of Community and Government Services, with his deputy minister being on some type of ad hoc committee. Is that being more formalized? When can we start seeing some movement on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Once again I wish to remind you that we're trying to deal with issues of the past based on the document. However, given that you have less than one minute, I'll ask Mr. Barriault, perhaps, to respond or Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a cabinet direction to proceed in changing the legislation as part of our work plan.

During the committee process earlier this fall, I indicated that it would likely be springtime when we introduce the amendment of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's mandate and legislation. So once that is in place, they will begin

implementing that new legislation and it would likely carry through the summer, and so on. Having the ex-officio representative from CGS has been important because we need to cooperate with CGS on a number of major capital planning issues, as well as sharing of resources in dealing with the cost issues, and so on. So it's been beneficial.

Once that legislation is in place, there will likely be a new disengagement obviously with the current governing structure that we have. For instance, my officials on both sides will no longer be on the governance structure, no doubt. Therefore, that will change. Eventually the CGS ex officio will probably have to fade out as well, but they all will have to be planned so that we have a clear understanding of exactly when the directive that is currently in place has come to an end and that kind of stuff.

These are under a serious work plan right now and fully engaged with all that right now. I think we're on track so far. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I thought I was actually asking questions that were from the report in terms of some of the things that the contractor saw as needing improvement or just different mechanisms within the Nunavut Housing Corporation to be able to do their job better. I was sort of asking questions to get some answers and see what the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been doing to make those changes, but I was trying to stay away from going back into the past because, in some

respects, the past can't be changed and I didn't want to be accused of being and going into witch hunting.

So one of the questions I have then with the Deloitte and Touche report was one of the big questions was that there is a lot of data that was missing in terms of the two big issues that Mr. Barriault mentioned earlier were the proper budgeting and then the tracking with that being on track. The proper budgeting didn't happen because, according to the report, that information where they got their figures and their numbers for the over-commitments weren't found.

So my question was: at any time since the people who were doing the report were doing the report and since we did questioning in October and now you've had three or four months to follow up, and we are going to be asking more questions, but has anybody gone and actually talked to Peter Scott to ask him what happened and which cabinet drawer he left all of the files and figures in or has anyone talked to Chris D'Arcy, who was working for the Nunavut Housing Corporation at the same time, who is still working within the Government of Nunavut, to maybe find out the answers that we are looking for? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to make sense of what you alluded to; it's kind of difficult to really get the rationale behind the whole thing. If we needed to speak to those guys, we would. Obviously I think the problems that were identified not only by the auditors, two sets of

auditors, one by what you just quoted and then we had another audit, as well as a number of reports that we have got from the Auditor General, I think these are very important pieces of documents that have allowed us to come to this place where we now have a system, I think, of tracking permission. If we need to go back to them to learn about their mistakes, I think that would be a poor way of operating a huge corporation.

I would like Lori Kimball to respond to some of the missing data kind of issue that you alluded to and whether or not she can make sense of what I'm saying. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I took over as CFO, I went through what I could find in the computer on the shared drive and personal drive, and the data that is contained within this report is everything that I found on there. So we didn't phone up previous employees; we just worked with what we found in the office. Unfortunately that's the degree of data.

One of the key things that contributed to the NHT issue is the fact that the budget was done at \$275,000 per unit, which was based on five-plex costing five years ago, and duplexes and singles were basically done as two-fifths or one-fifth of that cost, which, as you know, doing a single family dwelling is not one-fifth of the cost of a five-plex.

So there are some basic flaws that were in the original data as well as lack of inflation, etcetera, and that, as Mr. Barriault has mentioned, is the main

driving force is the budget issues with the original budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Elliott, your time has come up. I have Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. Recognizing this review, the final version of the review was completed by September 22, 2010, and also recognizing that there is a high public expectation when we award contracts for the construction of homes and other infrastructure, the infrastructure or housing should be reasonably priced, high quality, and on time. We have failed to meet those expectations in the past.

Recognizing that it has been about five months, Mr. Chairman, since the report/review was completed, has the Nunavut Housing Corporation department, through the good office of the hon. minister, made any improvements to this, as recommended by the review up to this point? Have you made any improvements already that we can have a better expectation in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Nunavut is a very complex territory to actually pin down how best to find not the challenge but solution to the challenges that we face, including severe weather patterns that we have that can delay. The criterion just to complete projects on this date, in some cases, is very difficult to pinpoint

it to a day and a month in view of the fact that we have severe weather patterns.

But what we have been able to do, Mr. Chairman, is to improve the budgeting process and tracking of budgets. Project management also has been strengthened compared to any other time the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been in existence. I think we have a capacity that we are lacking.

We have instituted project managers that are really tracking. The regional district offices are much more vigilant now of the work needed, including here in the directorate, tracking the budget and also working on a realistic budget, not just assuming that it's going to cost this much by adding a few percentages here and there.

We are dealing with a real, actual budget now, the exact cost of constructing homes, so I think we have made progress. I think the figures that the housing corporation presented to the finance department have improved, to be honest with you. We have heard that there is a lot more cooperation going on right now between the various agencies.

So having said that, Mr. Chairman, I am personally satisfied that we are on track. Sure, we need to do better and we are going to ensure that we have a governance structure that will eventually allow the corporation to be a lot more at arm's length than it has been. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. I have no more names on my list. Do members agree that we have concluded the tabled documents?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask the minister if he has closing comments.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Personally I want to thank you for guiding us during this process. I know that members have had very serious contributions that they have made to this work. I want to thank all of you because the questions that you raised and the challenges that you have stated are something that we will address. We will continue to report to the members if there are any further changes that are happening.

We are obligated not only to the Assembly but also to the cabinet and to the Department of Finance for any major changes that are occurring. So I think that the checks and balances that are in place now will make sure that we're not going on a fishing trip somewhere and getting to another chaotic, confusing state. So I want to thank personally all of the members for giving us a run for our money. Thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable.

All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. We are now on Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Nanulik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2), and would like to report that Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2) are concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? The Member for Amittuq is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Going to Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There being none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 23:

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. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
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
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

Thank you.

Appendix 1 – February 22, 2011

Return to Oral Question 498 – 3(2): Assessment of Housing Units

Asked by: Fred Schell, MLA (South Baffin)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Date: October 28, 2010

Question:

- 1) When was the last report done on the conditional assessment of all of the housing units?
- 2) Could the minister let the House know who was awarded the contract and what the cost was?

Response:

- 1) The condition rating assessments were completed from September 2009 to March 2010. Assessments were performed on all NHC owned public housing and GN owned staff housing units.
- 2) The contract for the condition rating assessment of 4,704 units was awarded to L. Gordon Consulting Services. The total cost of the contract was \$1,868,307.

Return to Oral Question 501 – 3(2): Office Space for Mental Health in Sanikiluaq

Asked by: Allan Rumbolt, MLA (Hudson Bay)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services

Date: October 28, 2010

Question:

On October 28, 2010, the member from Hudson Bay asked an oral question in the legislature regarding the Department of Health and Social Services securing office space for mental health and social services in Sanikiluaq.

Answer:

Mr. Speaker, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued by the Department of Community and Government Services to obtain office space in Sanikiluaq for mental health services. No responses were received as a result of this RFP.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services directly contacted the hamlet in July 2010 to determine if they had space available. The response to this inquiry was negative. However, the department has recently learned that the hamlet has since found some office space. The Department of Health and Social Services will be working with the hamlet and the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure the space is available for occupancy in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Appendix 2 – February 22, 2011

**Return to Written Question 22 – 3(2): New Nunavut Housing Corporation
Directorate Office in Iqaluit**

Asked by: Ron Elliott, MLA (Quttiktuq)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Date: November 1, 2010

Question:

1. What is the lot number and civic address of the building in Iqaluit now being used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for its directorate office?
2. What was the total amount expended by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the acquisition of the building that is now being used as office space for its directorate office?
3. From what company or individual was the purchase of the building made?
4. What was the process by which this acquisition was approved by the Financial Management Board?
5. Through which Appropriation Act was funding for this purchase approved?
6. What renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work were completed on the building subsequent to the Nunavut Housing Corporation taking ownership of it?
7. What was the dollar value of any renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work completed on the building subsequent to its acquisition by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
8. Through what type of contracting procedure (e.g. competitive tender, request for proposals, etcetera) did the Nunavut Housing Corporation acquire the services for the renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work on the building?
9. What company or individual was awarded the contract(s) to perform renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work?
10. On an annual basis, how much does the Iqaluit Housing Authority pay in rent for the use of the facility?
11. How long is the term of the lease to the Iqaluit Housing Authority and what are the particulars of the lease agreement in respect to payment of utilities and other conditions?

Response:

1. The lot number of the building in Iqaluit now being used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for its directorate office is Lot 2, block 227, Plan 3480. The civic address is 1553 Federal Road.
2. The total amount expended by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the acquisition of the building that is now being used as office space for its directorate office was \$5.5 million.
3. NHC purchased the building from NCC Investment Group Inc.
4. The NHC submitted a request for decision to FMB which was subsequently approved.
5. The appropriation was included on the GN Finance “2009-10 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2”. The related bill was passed on December 8, 2009 as “Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010.”
6. The following renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, and other work were completed on the building subsequent to the Nunavut Housing Corporation taking ownership:

The renovations of building 1553 included the extension of 2nd floor office space over the existing carpentry shop, which included wiring for shop tools and the installation of lighting fixtures in the carpentry shop and maintenance storage area. Two new exterior entrances for the 2nd level to meet fire code and an elevator for accessibility were also included.

The renovations included windows, doors, insulation, drywall, suspended ceiling, millwork, etcetera, along with carpeting and flooring throughout the building; interior paint; two additional air handling units and ductwork; and data wiring, as per GN standard structured cabling requirements.

Also included in the tenant improvements were the installation of an alarm system, a security camera system, a key scan system, a Local Area Network room, and an upgrade to the fire alarm system on both levels.

7. The dollar value of the renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, and other work completed on the building subsequent to its acquisition by the Nunavut Housing Corporation is \$1,253,000. However, work is still ongoing as the elevator for accessibility has only recently arrived in Iqaluit.
8. The purchase and sale agreement included the provision for NCC to provide work at cost for renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work on the building.

9. The renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, and other work was performed by NCC as part of the purchase and sale agreement.
10. How much the Iqaluit Housing Authority will pay in rent for the use of the facility on an annual basis has not yet been determined. In order to reduce administrative costs, NHC will likely adjust the IHA's funding rather than invoice them for rent.
11. As with all other NHC owned warehousing and offices, there is no formal lease agreement at this time with the Iqaluit Housing Authority (IHA). NHC and IHA have not yet determined the particulars of how all of the costs will be split in respect to payment of utilities and other conditions. However, NHC will likely adjust funding to the IHA rather than charge rent in order to reduce administrative costs.