



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**3rd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 7**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2011**

**Pages 344 – 431**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(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)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**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)

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, March 8, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, 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, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Okalik) (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Today I would like to ask Ms. Ugyuk to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms and Ms. Ugyuk. Good afternoon. Welcome. Before we proceed, I must refer to our Rules. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 022 – 3(3): Food and Clothing Allowances**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to announce increases to the food allowance and clothing allowances under the Social Assistance Program.

Mr. Speaker, the approved \$3 million increase allows for a 15 percent increase to the food allowance, which has not been increased since 2005. The clothing

allowance will now be increased by over 35 percent to \$50 per month per eligible recipient, and the regular and seasonal clothing allowances will be combined into a single benefit. The clothing allowance has not been increased since before division with the Northwest Territories and is now sorely needed.

Currently, 90 percent of the total social assistance expenditures per month are used to provide benefits for food. Assisting individuals and families with resources to meet a basic standard of living that includes a healthy diet is essential, especially for children.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has made a commitment to improve the quality of life for all Nunavummiut by reducing poverty. Increases to both the food and clothing allowances will help the most vulnerable individuals and families in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the increases to the food allowance and clothing benefits within the Social Assistance Program are strategically aligned with the guiding principles outlined in *Tamapta*. The Department of Education and in particular, the Income Support Program cannot address poverty alone. All government departments, Inuit organizations, community members, and municipalities share a role in reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for Nunavummiut. I look forward to the continued work with these partners in finding real and meaningful solutions to poverty in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation.

**Minister's Statement 023 – 3(3):  
Qulliq Energy Corporation's 10th  
Anniversary in Nunavut**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on April 1 of this year, it will be the 10th year anniversary of Qulliq Energy Corporation/Nunavut Power as Nunavut's very own electrical utility.

On April 1, 2001, the power plants and offices across Nunavut that had previously been operated by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and before that, by the Northern Canada Power Corporation officially became part of Nunavut Power. Nunavut Power was created to continue providing power to Nunavut's 25 communities once we had realized the dream of having our own territory.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is arguably the most extreme place in Canada in which to operate power plants and to generate and distribute power. Unlike the south, we do not have access to a territorial power grid for distribution. Also, we do not have access to the hydroelectric supply and facilities that were developed for our neighbours to the west.

Mr. Speaker, our organization is guided by the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* when it comes to generating electricity for Nunavummiut. We base this guidance on *Piliriqatigiinniq* (working together for a common cause), *Qanuqtuurniq* (being

innovative and resourceful), *Aajiiqatigiinniq* (decision-making through discussion and consensus), and *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq* (respect and care for the land, animals, and the environment). With these principles in mind, QEC has been able to achieve an incredibly high reliability rating of more than 98 percent in keeping the power on over the past decade. This result is in spite of our extreme weather conditions and the various locations in which we operate.

Mr. Speaker, as the corporation enters its second decade, QEC is focused on Nunavut's opportunities for growth and prosperity. As our population expands and our economy continues to develop, we will focus on upgrading and replacing outdated infrastructure in order to grow with the territory. We will continue our search for economically and environmentally viable alternative energy sources in order to reduce Nunavut's dependence on diesel fuel and our impact on the environment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing the corporation's management and staff every success in meeting their objectives as we celebrate QEC's first 10 years of service on April 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

**Minister's Statement 024 – 3(3):  
International Women's Day**

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



International Women's Day. Mr. Speaker, each year on March 8, people around the world observe International Women's Day. It is a global day celebrating the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future.

It is the 100th year of this celebration and it was 100 years ago that men and women joined together to rally for women to have the right to vote, to hold public office, to work, to be trained, and to end discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, today, as the Premier and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women in our territory, I would like to ask all Nunavummiut here and across Canada to join me in acknowledging and celebrating International Women's Day. Women play an important role in Inuit society and we need to prepare young women in Nunavut today to take on leadership roles in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is actively involved in doing this and in supporting women already in leadership roles. In partnership with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council, we held the Arnait Nipingit Leadership Summit last fall. More than 140 women from across the territory, other Inuit regions, and government joined together to support and empower women's leadership initiatives in Nunavut.

As well, in support of the current women leaders in Nunavut, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council annually presents the Wise Woman of the Year Award. This award celebrates women who are role models and who provide

volunteer, counselling, and caregiver service to others. As always, I look forward with great anticipation to learning in the coming weeks who this year's recipient will be.

(interpretation ends) On a final note, Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2011, the United Nations, recognizing the importance of promoting gender equality and the need to support the empowerment of women, celebrated the operational launch and the establishment of UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to UN Women and to the National Committee for UN Women – Canada on this historic development. I wish them much success in the work that will take place under this new and very important entity.

Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate women as community members, leaders, and makers of history. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I wish all women a great day. Minister of Human Resources.

**Minister's Statement 025 – 3(3):  
Information Sessions for  
Supervisors**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an ongoing and proactive element of the department's employee relations strategy for professional development, we have developed and are delivering information sessions in three key areas:

- Supervisor's Roles and Responsibilities;
- Managing Employee Probation; and
- Performance Management.

Mr. Speaker, the information sessions are delivered by staff from our Employee Relations Division who are subject matter experts in terms of our Human Resources Manual policies and directives. The sessions provide for an understanding of the way we do business by identifying the roles and responsibilities of those who manage and supervise employees.

The response to these sessions has been positive and the wide range of participants has included new supervisors to experienced directors, creating excellent opportunities for comparing the reality of operations to the expectations of strategic performance management. Everyone gets the same information regardless how long they have been managing staff.

Mr. Speaker, information sessions have been held in all three regions with plans in place for further deliveries. The delivery schedule includes sessions for all headquarter offices of GN departments through the winter and spring of 2011 and through teleconferences to regional offices. The sessions will be a regular offering of the department into the future.

Mr. Speaker, through our dedication to continuing learning, supervisory training sessions such as these demonstrate the Government of Nunavut's commitment to developing our public servants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 035 – 3(3): International Women's Day**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the day as it is a very special day today. It is International Women's Day and it includes part of our jobs. Women are continuing to fight for women's rights in the world. Mr. Speaker, with these as my reasons, I would like to include recognition of International Women's Day, which was also recognized by the Status of Women Council here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to celebrate because we are moving fast toward the future, but if you look at the destination, we still have a far ways to go yet. In this House, I celebrate the fact that I stand here amongst my peers in representing my constituents and I'm also very happy that my fellow woman, the Premier, is able to represent our territory. However, it is very easy to see that there are only two female representatives here in the House. Women have to ensure that we speak a louder and stronger voice to represent the ratio of women.

Mr. Speaker, when this year first started, we heard a couple of announcements that were very saddening: two women have now been killed by their spouses. The two husbands have now been charged for murder and they are now incarcerated. Let us remember the two

victims here because spousal assault is a very big problem here in Nunavut and it causes a lot of family dysfunction in our territory.

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

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

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

(interpretation ends) The 2006 Statistics Canada report on violence against women showed that the average spousal homicide rates for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories were the highest across Canada, almost twice as high as the Yukon and almost ten times as high as anywhere else.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I have been a bit surprised that the Status of Women Council has been so quiet recently and it worries me. Mr. Speaker, many women are afraid to speak up about the situation that they live in and face on a daily basis. The Status of Women Council can play an important role in being a voice for these women, a voice to express outrage and to demand change in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to call upon our Inuit organizations to take a stronger stand in addressing issues that directly affect women in our communities. (interpretation ends) Too often, it feels as if the focus of their initiatives are driven by the old boys'

club and do not take all beneficiaries into account. Providing equal support for initiatives that directly affect women would help balance the power and opportunities and move towards a healthier, happier society.

(interpretation) I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing International Women's Day in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay.

### **Member's Statement 036 – 3(3): Harvesting of Polar Bears**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of polar bear harvesting in Sanikiluaq.

On Friday of last week, I had the opportunity to ask questions to the Minister of Environment about a number of issues concerning the management and harvesting of polar bears. Mr. Speaker, as I noted during my questioning of the minister, I strongly support the Department of Environment on their decision to move away from the use of tranquilizer drugs during its population surveys and other research activities. I also encourage the department in its efforts to work with our co-management partners, such as Ontario, to ensure that they also adopt less invasive practices on polar bear management.

Mr. Speaker, an issue that I would like the minister to reconsider is a system of compensating hunters. Hunters in

Sanikiluaq travel vast distances when hunting polar bears. If a hunter shoots a bear and discovers that it has been tranquilized and tagged within the last 12 months, they receive compensation due to the meat being inedible. However, when hunters take a bear that was drugged at an earlier point in time, they do not receive compensation, even though it is acceptable by the community that the meat still cannot be eaten.

Mr. Speaker, when I questioned the minister about this issue last week, he indicated that the federal guidelines stated that polar bear meat is safe to eat after 45 days have passed since a bear was drugged. Mr. Speaker, the wisdom of hunters and elders in Sanikiluaq is very clear: a bear whose meat has been tainted with drugs is a bear that cannot be eaten, no matter what federal studies may say.

Mr. Speaker, given that the government is moving away from the use of tranquilizer drugs, this problem will decrease over time. However, I urge the government to reconsider its practices with respect to the compensation of hunters so that they receive compensation for any bear that they take which has been drugged. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 037 – 3(3):  
Arctic Bay is Open for Business**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to rise today to let you, my colleagues, and the public know that Arctic Bay is open for business.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Arctic Bay held a public meeting last month to share ideas about how we can work together and move forward in the area of economic development. During the meeting, my constituents voted strongly in favour of promoting tourism and bringing tourists back to our beautiful community.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation has risen in the House on a number of occasions to update us on the opening of the Arctic Bay Airport. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the community of Arctic Bay, I would like to sincerely thank the Government of Nunavut for committing the funds for this important piece of infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, we were very pleased that the Premier, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and their staff were able to attend the official grand opening of the new airport.

Mr. Speaker, tourism provides significant and sustainable economic development opportunities for all of our residents. Showcasing our land and culture is also a source of pride. Mr. Speaker, with the opening of the new airport, this very important part of our economy is ready to take off. Arctic Bay is open for business and we welcome the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 038 – 3(3):  
Community Empowerment**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just prior to my statement, I would like to also recognize International Women's Day and I hope all women have a very nice and easy time today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about empowering communities.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, I had a very productive exchange with the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding his department's new Municipal Mobile Equipment Block Funding Policy. As the minister will recall, I expressed my support for providing municipalities with the flexibility to determine their equipment acquisition priorities within the overall accountability framework of the department's funding policy. Mr. Speaker, it appeared to me that the minister and I are on the same page on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, part of empowering communities is recognizing that every community is different. In the specific case of mobile equipment funding, the needs of Coral Harbour are not necessarily the same as the needs of Chesterfield Inlet or Sanikiluaq or Rankin Inlet or Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly recognize that there needs to be accountability for the resources that are provided to municipalities. For example, if a municipality is provided with funding for heavy equipment acquisitions, it

should not use that money for buying new furniture. However, the municipality is in the best position to judge what specific type of equipment it needs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage other departments to look at adopting this approach. I would especially like to see the departments of Education and CLEY review their current approach to providing funding for improvements and upgrades to facilities in our communities, including daycares and recreational infrastructure, such as swimming pools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 039 – 3(3):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to state something coming from my heart: I celebrate with all women International Women's Day.

If you recall, my wife, Celine, was here. I thank her because she is my rock and whenever I give up, she is always there. Furthermore, when I am stressed, she is my most ardent supporter and assistant. Whenever I feel entirely alone in the world, she is my one and only friend because sometimes people do feel lonely even though they're undertaking a job they may like.

I would also like to recall all of my grandchildren and children. Whenever they want to get a toy from us, such as a hockey stick or bicycle or perhaps in today's world, they want an iPod and I say "no," they sidestep me and go to my wife because she continues to support our children and grandchildren. On their behalf, I would like to recognize their grandmother and all women in Nunavut, in Repulse Bay, and Kugaaruk. Have a very wonderful International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Members' Statements. There are no more hands up. Going to our orders of the day. Item. 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Premier.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 018 – 3(3): Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Public Service**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to submit a response to Question 18 – 3(3) asked by the Member for South Baffin on March 2, 2011 concerning the conflict of interest guidelines for public service.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for entering into *Hansard* for public record and for distribution to all members.

##### **Question:**

"Mr. Speaker, under the territorial *Integrity Act*, Members of the Legislative Assembly are legally required to complete disclosure

statements concerning their business interests and to meet on an annual basis with the Integrity Commissioner, who is an independent officer of the House. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the disclosure statements of elected MLAs are available to anyone in the public to review.

The Premier appoints the deputy ministers of the government's departments and the heads of Crown corporations and agencies. Can she explain to the House today what conflict of interest guidelines are in place for senior public servants?"

##### **Response:**

The terms and conditions of employment for deputy heads, including all deputy ministers and the presidents of the three territorial corporations, are outlined in the letter of offer provided to the deputy head at the time of hire. In all cases, those letters of offer incorporate by reference the provisions of the Deputy Head Employment and Compensation Terms, which have specific requirements regarding conflict of interest provisions, in addition to those imposed on all employees of the Government of Nunavut.

The Deputy Head and Compensation Terms outline clearly that the duties of a deputy head do not permit the active pursuit of any other business or occupation.

Upon appointment, a deputy head must disclose in writing any current business activities or personal holdings that may represent a conflict of interest, as well as volunteer or community positions or businesses that are pursued without compensation.

If I, as Premier, determine that any activities or holdings conflict with the deputy head or head of a Crown corporation's obligations to the GN, he or she will be so advised in writing and requested to cease the business activity or place those assets in an appropriate trust.

Furthermore, it is required that they will avoid personal financial activities, including investment in Nunavut-related enterprises, where personal financial decisions could reasonably be considered to have been impacted by or based on information received or obtained through their employment where such information is not generally available to the public.

After their term of employment, deputy heads and heads of Crown corporations continue to be bound by any guidelines that may be implemented by the GN restricting their business and financial activities for a reasonable period of time.

General GN policies with respect to confidentiality and conflict of interest apply to deputy heads. Due to the nature and seniority of their positions, deputy heads are held to a very high standard with respect to confidentiality and conflict of interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. We're on Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 4. (interpretation) There being none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to welcome Mr. Marcel Pagé, Canada's Attaché to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and former Ambassador to Lebanon. Also with him is Mr. Ryan Ward of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa. This is part of DFAIT's outreach to provinces and territories to help better represent Canada overseas. They will be meeting with various Nunavummiut, including officials from our departments. *Bienvenue au Nunavut*. Welcome to Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq.

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 068 – 3(3): Nunavut Marine Council**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleasant afternoon wishes to my colleagues, especially to my constituents in Igloodik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. He rarely gets questions, so I enjoy directing questions to him. I'm just kidding.

As most members are well aware, the pace of development in the mineral sector has increased quite dramatically here in Nunavut and in particular, exploration for iron ore and other various precious metals continues to

expand. As deposits are being developed, Mr. Speaker, it will require that the mined ore be transported to key markets. It is becoming quite obvious that transportation will entail its own concerns to many communities.

I want to provide some background so he can see what causes concerns amongst Nunavummiut. The Mary River project is a project currently awaiting regulatory approval. Due to the large iron ore deposits, they will be mining it and will have to ship it via marine transportation vessels through Foxe Basin and Hudson Strait out to its markets. These ore carriers, according to the details within the project proposal, are scheduled to run all winter long, with approximately two ships per week passing through these marine corridors. This will be a yearlong transportation usage and this causes many concerns to the local residents who will be impacted.

Furthermore, the biggest reason for these concerns is the fact that this marine environment holds a large walrus population that utilizes these waters and sea ice to survive and also to give birth and they migrate back and forth in its waters. Additionally, other marine mammals also use these marine waters and quite a few species call these waters home.

Can the Minister of Environment outline his department's approach to resolving these issues stemming from the mining industry, either through partnerships with federal government departments or regional Inuit associations? How are they trying to mitigate these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Environment.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, of course, the environment and marine wildlife are very important to the Government of Nunavut and all communities involved in the proposed development of Baffinland. We are very concerned and we are encouraging the federal government to consult with all communities and all interested parties that are involved.

Through the environmental assessment stage, the Department of Environment will be asked for its input in that assessment. However, it's very important to understand that the marine wildlife and the marine travel are under the jurisdiction of the federal government Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Coast Guard. However, as a government, we will voice our views and opinions and ensure that Nunavutmiut are involved in consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In listening to his response, it seems that we, as a government, can't really look after these marine areas and therefore, we will be lobbying the federal government to represent us.

However, with respect to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and Article 15, it speaks to offshore and the fact that there has to be a marine agency. It states



in the provision that within Nunavut, the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board, as well as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, which are the four institutions of public government, can form a special board that would become the Nunavut Marine Council.

Can the minister inform the House whether or not this process has been undertaken and whether or not his department is involved in the formation of the Nunavut Marine Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for that question. I think the entities and the boards that he's referring to are all boards that are developed under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, which the jurisdictional right and the body to implement that is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I'm not aware of such a board being formed, but I would say that if it's possible that such a board could be formed with all of those entities involved that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated be responsible for doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister of Environment to know that the Nunavut government was a direct result of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; it's not entirely separate.

You have to remember that the Nunavut government was formed as part of the land claims, Mr. Speaker.

What I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, is: how can the Nunavut government urge that this board be set up? What kind of strength does the government have in the offshore? Perhaps they can do that by using Article 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, which is the foundation of this government. Will this government look at assisting the Department of Environment to ensure that they are able to resolve issues related to the marine environment? We all know that this body is needed as marine mammals are very important to the communities that are along our coasts here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for his concern and question. I have no problem if the Nunavut government can encourage Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to look at the possibility of forming such a board. It may be in place; I am not sure. However, that is under their jurisdiction to do that. It sounds like a very good idea to have such a board to provide input to environmental assessments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): It's quite obvious that I will have to review some of these issues related to what I

talked about, but this will form my last question, Mr. Speaker.

If you look at the legislation or if you look at the Constitution and if you look at the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, they issued a report in 2009 related to the marine waters of Nunavut. In English it was titled, (interpretation ends) “*Rising to the Arctic Challenge: Report on the Canadian Coast Guard.*” (interpretation) It has 14 recommendations and it states that these are the things you have to look at.

The second recommendation states that “The Committee recommends that Canada develop a much stronger year-round, national presence and enforcement capability to show the world that Canada is serious about controlling the Northwest Passage, protecting Canadian interests and Canada’s northern residents, and making the waterway a safe and efficient shipping route.”

Can the minister inform me how the Nunavut government is working with the Canadian Coast Guard to resolve these issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Environment.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a very good point again. I can assure the member and the House that at every opportunity that I have to speak to the federal government, whether it’s the Minister of the Environment or the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or if it’s with National Defence, that at all times, my highlight

is that we need to show sovereignty of the North and their presence is needed much more. We do this in our fisheries research and our fisheries involvement. I lobby them all of the time to have more fisheries presence, more enforcement officers, more fisheries biologists, and more fisheries people to do fisheries work in the territory.

We need more presence of the Coast Guard for any spills or incidents that may happen here, and I assure the member and the House that I will continue to lobby the federal government in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister, your tie is giving me a headache, so if you could try and tone it down in the future, it would probably be more helpful for all.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Member for Quttiktuq.

### **Question 069 – 3(3): Government Restructuring**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

In his Budget Address last week, the minister announced that the government will undertake a review of its own structure and that this review will “take a thoughtful look at the number of departments and agencies, their mandates and organizational designs.” As the minister knows, he has received much applause from members concerning his announcement. Can he provide us with some more detail today about exactly who will lead this

organizational review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. I'm sure he would like to be appointed to lead the review, but unfortunately I can't do that.

Mr. Speaker, we haven't gone in detailed depth yet to undertake this review; it is still early. I made the Budget Address earlier this week, but I can assure the members that we're taking it seriously and any comments, suggestions, and recommendations from the MLAs will be considered very carefully. I'm sure other people out there will have some suggestions as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question was going to be how we address this and who we address it to. Are you saying that what you would like us to do is formally send letters to you putting forward suggestions? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott again for that question. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing for quite a while now from members' statements and comments in the standing committees suggested changes to the government, not only to

the structures but also to the programs. If Mr. Elliott or any of the other members wish to make it formal and submit it through letters, of course, we welcome those letters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last general election was in October of 2008, which means that we have roughly two to two and a half years remaining in our mandate. Can the minister confirm whether the government's goal is to complete this organizational review in time for next year's budget and presentation of the main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can assure Mr. Elliott that it is a very high priority for the government.

As I indicated in the Budget Address, we have to look at some changes in the government and the way the government does business to make it more efficient, more effective. After this sitting is over, I will sit down and talk about it. It will be a high priority and hopefully it can be done within a year. As Mr. Elliott pointed out, we have two years left. I don't really want it to go that long and I'm sure that my colleagues would like to get some changes underway as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his Budget Address, the minister noted that MLAs have “offered thoughtful suggestions” and even today he suggested that with his replies. Some of the examples that my colleagues have brought up; the Member for Natilik spoke strongly on the issue of restructuring the Department of Health and Social Services and my colleague from Nanulik has suggested that we look closely at the location of sport and recreation. I have some ideas of my own and I am eager to share those with the minister.

Will the minister commit to formally inviting all Members of the Legislative Assembly to provide suggestions to him and can he provide a deadline of when these suggestions should be submitted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott. Again, Mr. Elliott asked me to put a deadline. Like I said, we have been hearing this for a while. We have heard many members’ statements since the Budget Address. As soon as possible, we are welcome to receive ideas. We have a lot of problems in Nunavut but we would like to entertain solutions to those problems, so the sooner the better. If Mr. Elliott has some ideas and proposals, we welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I’m sorry, I’m

writing my suggestion. (interpretation) Member for Amittuq.

### **Question 070 – 3(3): Plans to Address Situation in Igloolik**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would now like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and I have been raising this question throughout the week.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that we had a couple of unfortunate incidents in Igloolik where two young children passed away. I received an email just now from Arviat about another family that has experienced an issue like that. It’s so hard to try to understand what they are going through. The minister now has heard it through various question periods that members have asked about.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services start an inquiry so that they can inform this House, along with all of our residents in Nunavut, that they will look into this matter and whether or not they will undertake this inquiry to determine what the exact causes of the sickness was? That’s what I would like to find out, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): That’s directed to the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I understand that question clearly. First of all, the parents have to be the first ones informed from the coroner’s office about the cause of death. A lot of the times, we can’t speak about the details, but it’s apparent in their articles that they have to be informed by the coroner’s office first

about the cause of the death. I can only say that because we can't speak about these issues in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a very stressful and difficult situation for the relatives of the deceased.

However, I just received a letter dated March 3 from the Igloolik Hamlet Council. It is addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it raises several questions. He was asked whether or not the minister can consider setting up a coroner's inquest to look at how health centres and nurses conduct their duties, perhaps conduct a review on the operations, or whether it was a pandemic that broke down the system although they fulfilled their duties. This letter was sent from the hamlet council and they would like to get a response as soon as possible, so I would like to know how soon the minister could respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first I have heard of it. I haven't received a copy of this letter from the hamlet. I would first have to get a copy of the letter in order to determine what our response will be. At this time, I can't respond to the request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you want to ask a supplementary to your question? Member for Amittuq.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to push for more information and we also want to ensure that is just not overlooked and jumped over because whenever there is a difficult situation, we have to understand why the situation occurred.

We cannot just be blaming each other or other departments or other people, especially when we don't have answers. Therefore, I'm asking whether or not they will try to get to the bottom of this so that everybody will know exactly what happens. What I want to know is that we will really be watching over the ongoing undertaking of the health department. That's just a comment, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): That was just a comment. Member for Akulliq.

### **Question 071 – 3(3): Inuit Qaujimaqatungit and Medical Diagnosis**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Tagak Curley, the Minister of Health.

Sometimes as members, we are occasionally told wherever, either at the airport, at the store, outside, occasionally I am told by mothers or by people with children that when they take their child to the health centre, the usual statement is that the child is okay. Again, if we look at *Tamapta*, Inuit would like to start incorporating more *Inuit*

*Qaujimajatuqangit* into the health system.

For example, a mother knows best what her child is feeling, even if the child can't speak or say anything. Does the Department of Health believe in this particular saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if that is entirely believed by all nurses and doctors. However, what I can say is whenever someone is sick and they weren't offered proper care, I would like to find out more about that person but not in the House. We would have to deal with it on a case-by-case basis. Again, we can only review these cases singularly, and then they would have to look into the entire file to try to ensure that the individual's health is looked after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this House, there are several MLAs and I'm not the only member who has been informed about certain cases. I'm sure a lot of my colleagues have similar experiences.

I would like to ask if you will be incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the health system, especially the traditional saying about the mother knowing best how her child feels. That is what we want to start incorporating. Sometimes the nurse seems to downplay

the illness of the child. I'm not going to state an exact name, time, or place, but I have been informed on more than one occasion about cases like that, where the nurses downplay the sickness.

*Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is supposed to be the foundation for the government operations. Are you going to start using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in the health system? That's my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, this issue will never die nor will it stop. It will be an ongoing issue, but we have to ensure that patients are treated properly. We will keep trying to provide health services to all residents and all of our employees will be available to do that. Further, if the mothers need to speak to the condition of their child, they should do so and explain the symptoms.

With respect to the medical system, you cannot disseminate the statements made by patients. The reason for this is if a person is sick and has to be seen by a nurse or a doctor and there is a complaint issued about a certain process, we have to look at them on a case-by-case basis. This will be undertaken and we will not stop trying to improve our health system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. There are no more hands up. Member for Quttiktuq.

**Question 072 – 3(3): Bonus Payments to GN’s Senior Staff**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Recently, there has been media attention regarding payment of bonuses and merit pay to senior officials within the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I don’t want anyone to misunderstand my intentions. I agree with the way the report that was in CBC was presented. I feel that senior officials do warrant bonuses and merit pay when duly needed. With some of the statistics we see with human resources in terms of finding key people to work in higher management positions, it’s hard to find certain people. So I think compensation should be warranted for providing an incentive for them to come to Nunavut and provide their services or hire within Nunavut to provide services.

In the news article within CBC the Premier was quoted as saying that regular members, to receive this information in terms of where bonuses are paid and the numbers of people who receive bonuses, it’s our responsibility to request it. I was just wondering: will the Premier be tabling that document? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can table that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, I believe the Premier was also quoted as saying that the dollar value and the amount that gets paid out to senior officials is going down overall as well. I would commend and applaud the government for taking action on that.

In the briefing note that I saw and also it was mentioned in the report that bonuses and merit pay were capped at 4 percent. I was just wondering: is this true for all DMs, ADMs, and all senior officials within the Government of Nunavut? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** The performance pay used to be capped at 8 percent. We capped it at 4 percent because of our fiscal restraint and I believe I don’t have the working document that we were working with right now. It is with the senior managers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. There are no more hands up. Going to our orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. There being none. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Item 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. Member for Natilik.

**Item 9: Replies to Opening Address**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the Premier’s Minister’s Statement on celebrating

International Women's Day today, this is the 25th year of Canada celebrating International Women's Day. It is now the 100th year of this celebration... .

**Speaker** (interpretation): I'm sorry, Member. According to our Rules, a member can only make one reply to the Opening Address. Since you already replied last week, you can't make another reply to the Opening Address. I'm sorry. That was my mistake.

Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation ends) Item 11. (interpretation) Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 12. (interpretation) Responses to Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation ends) Item 14. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. I wish to table a document, Mr. Clerk.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 021 – 3(3): 2011 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut**

I wish to table today the *2011 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut*. Thank you.

The Member for Quttiktuq has some documents to table.

#### **Tabled Document 022 – 3(3): Quttiktuq Annual Constituency Newsletter: 2009 Quttiktuq Times**

#### **Tabled Document 023 – 3(3): Quttiktuq Annual Constituency Newsletter: 2010 Quttiktuq Times**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tables and I'll read them simultaneously.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of my 2009 annual constituency newsletter. Mr. Speaker, my first constituency newsletter, called The Quttiktuq Times, focused on the issue of arctic sovereignty. Interestingly enough, this issue also dealt with the topic of food insecurity around the Food Mail Program.

And, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of my 2010 annual constituency newsletter. Mr. Speaker, my 2010 newsletter focused on the new Nutrition North Canada Program. It also introduced my constituents to a number of key stakeholders within the riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education.

#### **Tabled Document 024 – 3(3): 2009-2010 Corporate Plan for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as the Minister responsible also for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. I am pleased to be able to table the 2009-2010 Corporate Plan for the Workers' Safety



and Compensation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 025 – 3(3):  
Federal/Provincial/Territorial  
Ministers Responsible for  
Emergency Management  
Conference in Toronto, January  
2011**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Conference in Toronto in January 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment.

**Tabled Document 026 – 3(3):  
Environmental Rights Act Annual  
Report for the period January 1,  
2010 to December 31, 2010**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Environmental Rights Act* Annual Report for the period January 1, 2010 to December 1, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions. Member for Nanulik.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 003 – 3(3): Extended  
Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on March 10, 2011, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until May 31, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 16. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 17. (interpretation) Motions. Member for Nanulik.

**Item 17: Motions**

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member, please proceed.

**Motion 003 – 3(3): Extended  
Adjournment**

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its

present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until May 31, 2011.

Further, that at any time prior to May 31, 2011, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 17.  
(interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 18. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. (interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 4, and 5 with the Member for South Baffin in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by motion 1 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Perhaps since we finished our orders of the day very quickly today, you can keep meeting until you want to have a short break and then continue.

Sergeant-at-Arms, thank you.

### **Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Schell): The Committee of the Whole will come to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 4, and 5. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the review of Community and Government Services, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Department of Justice, and then the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Are we in agreement to continue with the O&M budget for the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Community and Government Services**

**Chairman**: Are we agreed that Minister Kusugak and his staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist the minister and his staff to the witness table.

For the record, minister, could you please introduce your staff.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Kathleen Lausman, Deputy Minister of the department, and to my right is Alma Power, Director of Finance for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We were on J-5. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Support. Any questions? Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to welcome the minister and his officials. It is pleasant to have this opportunity to review your plans and to direct our questions to you.

Within your department's draft 2011-14 business plan, you indicate that one of your priorities for this upcoming year is to "Work closely and collaborate with Northern Employees Benefit Services and members of the GNWT on the draft legislative proposal to introduce pension plan legislation to regulate the NEBS pension plan for municipal employees in Nunavut and NWT."

With the Standing Committee on Legislation reviewing proposed legislation and having received the proposal, what would be its purpose if it were to be passed and enacted as legislation? Can you update the members as to when this legislative proposal will be introduced as a bill in this House so that we may vote on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for that very important question. I believe it

was last year when we started to debate the issue about updating the legislation and the members were all in support of revising the legislation. The hamlets were also in support of the review of this legislation.

Currently, whenever we are working towards revising or updating legislation, we have to ensure that all of the required work is completed, such as the regulations and the contents of the legislation. As part of this process, we are working with the Department of Justice's Legal Services Branch to detail out the needed revisions. Once the work has been completed and we are ready to present it, the proposed bill will be submitted to the Committee of the Whole for review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have anybody else on my list here. We will go to Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$64,927,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to J-6. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$71,371,000. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this department, just for clarification, are these dollars that go into paying for the operations and maintenance of all of our government buildings across the territory? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Elliott.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I think this goes hand in hand with some of the community support that's going out in terms of paying fuel for hamlet buildings but also paying fuel and whatnot for schools and other government buildings across the territory. Do you foresee a possible supplementary appropriation in terms of the cost of fuel going up in the future with this or are you pretty comfortable with the O&M budget as it is? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's hard to anticipate things like that. We try to budget our fuel prices adequately. If we find that there is a drastic change in it by June and July, then we would have to do changes, but we don't anticipate that to happen at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, one of the supplementary appropriation bills that we just passed last week included increases because of the potential increase in power rates and the rider that's going on there. Are those same dollar figures put into this part of the budget as well or is that something that hasn't been included in it? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** No, we will wait and do that next year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-6 under (interpretation ends) Contract Services, (interpretation) it seems there is quite a big increase. Why has that increased? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):** Yes, this is for information technology that I mentioned yesterday and it's for doing contract work on improving our Internet services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list here. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the government buildings that we have scattered across the decentralized communities, I think there are 11 of them, I'm not sure. My understanding is that in 2019, the leases and the payments from the federal government will run out on those. I'm assuming it is run through the O&M in terms of a lease type of project. Is it your department that would be negotiating anything after that? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we would be, but not alone. We would be working with the Department of Finance, I believe, when those negotiations would start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again looking into the future, when do you foresee that happening? Is it happening after 2014 and that's why it's not a priority in the business plan? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Elliott, while we're basically dealing with the current budget here and you're talking about 10 years from now, if the minister wants to answer that, go ahead, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, I think that's when we will be dealing with it at that time, when we're closer to that date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$71,371,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to J-7. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Protection Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to J-7 and on J-11, it says that the community search and rescue organization is \$500,000.

What are these dollars used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Those are geared towards training and working with municipal search and rescue committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is part of this funding used in the actual search and rescues that are done in communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, no, they're not. They're used more for training workshops and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For actual search and rescues, where do these dollars come from within your budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** They're included in J-7, \$203,000. Actually there is only a \$50,000 budget for search and rescue, Mr. Chairman, but it's included in that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how much of that budget was used last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, all of the \$50,000 was used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how much he went over in that budget? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We went over it in 2011 here. The total base rescue to January 31 of this year was \$33,937. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you feel that the \$50,000 is sufficient in this department? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** It's definitely not. I wish it would be, but it's not. It fluctuates every year and it's not adequate, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So based on history, I'm assuming it has a history of being over-budget each year. I'm wondering why more dollars aren't allocated towards that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, a number of factors come in. We have restraints and we have to work within our budgets, so we try to keep it as close to \$50,000 as possible. Unfortunately it goes over and we try to make ends meet from other areas, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So when this budget gets overrun, are there ever times when you cut back emergency services or protection services to the communities when needed, or are they provided and you just go over the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, we have never turned away a search and we have always funded where we are required to fund.

One of the things I would like to add, Mr. Chairman, is we are working right now within emergency services to put together the statistics on search and rescues and the peaks and valleys. It will give us a lot of more detail in terms of how we're going to budget this

department or this section of it. We're working on that kind of stuff.

We're also working towards preventative and prevention for search and rescue. We're putting cost into purchasing, such as last year, I believe we purchased a bunch of SPOT equipment and we have purchased a bunch of other search and rescue equipment to minimize the costs. So we're doing those, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the introduction of the SPOT devices last year, are you tracking how many times they have actually been signed out of the communities by hunters and if any hunters actually used them to aid in search and rescue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Rumbolt. We aren't specifically doing that, but we are working with the municipalities and they are keeping track of what equipment is being used, how often and when. If they have been activated, we would track that part of it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have any idea on the number of times they were activated in the past year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, we do, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately we don't have... do we have it here? I don't think we have that detail but we do have it available. Unfortunately it is not here, but I would be more than happy to share it with my colleagues once we get it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several years ago, a Nunavut-wide search and rescue society was formed, but it's my understanding that the society has been inactive. Can the minister or his officials clarify what hurdles are preventing this society from being more active? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I think it's a number of issues, Mr. Chairman. I think it takes a lot out of the volunteers. Search and rescue is all volunteer-based and with a combination of turnover of search and rescue members and chairs of municipalities and the drive from some municipalities for funding, it takes a lot of work to do it. I think it's a combination of all parties not doing an active enough role to make it continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

**Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I spoke to

this issue and I want to return to that remark. If the communities were able to be provided more funds and resources, then they would be able to run that program with better local control and decisions on what equipment is required.

Furthermore, I believe that we have an official who can train people in the communities with respect to search and rescue exercises. Another option, Mr. Chairman, is the usage of transponders, such as the SPOT devices or something similar. If these were being utilized, it would allow for quicker searches and rescues. With these transponders in our digital age, it is very easy to look up their position. I personally have one of those transponders, so I know it can work.

Due to these reasons, can we not use these funds to build *Qamutiit* that can be used by the local people or even to purchase snowmobiles and boats? Can this be looked into? I know we are not talking about capital items, Mr. Chairman, but what I'm trying to state is that we have to look at the long term and whether we ought to be preparing a strategy to provide these types of equipment for the search and rescue teams. I would like to see something set up to provide the equipment.

As we were discussing the matter of block funding yesterday with respect to larger pieces of equipment, I would like to know if this can also be considered for providing equipment to the smaller communities that may not be able to raise enough funds to purchase equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for that question. Regarding the issue of search and rescue, that responsibility is held by the municipalities and they work in conjunction with our Protection Services Division.

Many times, the squads go out in weather most people have no business being out in, in order to search for and rescue stranded hunters. It is solely due to their commitment to providing assistance to their fellow human beings. Many times, the SAR team brings back people who may never have returned if we didn't have these volunteers. It's quite obvious that they have saved many hunters who may not have survived otherwise.

Additionally, some teams would have spent more time searching, but due to the lack of equipment, they are unable to do more than their equipment allows. With that being the case, my own perspective on this issue, along with my officials, is that we should be looking at establishing a fund that caters to these search and rescue teams' needs. The teams would then be able to concentrate solely on the rescue, to initiate searches earlier, and they would be able to spend more time on the rescue and less time on the logistical challenges.

Yes, this and other related issues are being considered to see how we can provide assistance and locate funds for the SAR teams as well as for logistical operations. The hamlets have many ways to resolve these issues and based on the needs, they have undertaken various ways of operating these teams.



Some communities are quite adept at funding proposals, fundraising, and others have set aside funds for their SAR teams, such as purchasing snowmobiles, sleds, and other equipment needed to conduct these searches. Some have borrowed from various funds to purchase the equipment, while others have had successful requests for funding from various foundations.

We are hoping that this winter or in the next few months, we will have a detailed plan outlining the options that can assist these SAR teams to conduct their services. We could then work towards developing protocol related to equipment purchases. Yes, I concur with the member's comments on this issue.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I raised was based on the reason that some SAR teams have sent requests in the past several years to various departments, such as the Department of Environment, to be able to use their equipment, such as boats and other equipment owned by the conservation officers.

Most conservation officers have all of this equipment. The RCMP also tends to have equipment that could be used. However, most of the time, these agencies don't want to be liable for any accidents that may occur during their search. Liability is often used as the reason why their equipment cannot be used. That is why I asked about local resources which are in the hamlets but are just sitting pretty.

The reason why I believe that the SAR teams should have their own equipment is because the existing agencies are unable to lend them this equipment. There should be a SAR contact that can provide assistance. I would like to see it set up in this manner so that there would be fewer obstacles they would run into. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** That's just a comment, but if you want to comment on it, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, it may just be a comment but we will include your suggestion when we are looking at the issues surrounding this matter. If we can use it to further our work, we will inform you of any updates. I don't think it was just a comment but a very useful suggestion and it will assist us when looking at these issues. I agree with your assessment and we will deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a supplementary to the previous question, Taloyoak wants the (interpretation ends) search and rescue society (interpretation) that was in place before. They miss that society because it was really beneficial to the community. Just to let you know that we want the search and rescue society back. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for your comment. We will

keep that in mind. Also, we will inform everyone on the status of the society. We know the importance of that society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Also, when we're talking about search and rescue, we have to get a search and rescue plane from Ontario. There is a closer search and rescue plane in the Northwest Territories. Why can't we use that one instead? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, it is quite delayed when you request a search and rescue plane from down south because it takes quite a while for it to reach us. We have been working with the Department of National Defence on how we can improve these search and rescue airline services. The only difficulty we have is not being able to know how it will turn out down the road. We understand and hear the concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will take a 20-minute break and return here in 20 minutes. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 15:02 and resumed at 15:25*

**Chairman:** I would like to bring the committee meeting to order. We're on J-7. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Protection Services. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister.

Under the branch summary of Protection Services, search and rescue assistance is listed as one of the critical roles. The term "critical role" is very important. In fact, immediately after that and I'll read, "The Protection Services branch is responsible for provision of such critical roles as search and rescue assistance..." and others like emergency preparedness, building safety and fire prevention, and so on, but search and rescue is the top critical role, top in this section.

Like my other colleagues from other communities, I think search and rescue is very important in our communities. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I believe it is one of the priorities, if not the top priority. We have to provide adequate funding, assistance, and support as it continues to be treated more like an afterthought because the funding is so low.

Based on the written report, providing rescue services is a very valuable service. It is treated as one of the most valuable and critical roles, so we must give it proper weight when we are considering our priorities. If we are to believe the written report, it is a critical role. Is that true? It must be a critical role, but we are not funding it as a critical role. It's evident that we have to provide more funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is a critical service. All of the items we are reviewing are critical services. Search and rescue is very important, especially when people's equipment break down.

We are currently reviewing all past incidents to evaluate the types of services most required, what extenuating factors are involved, the usual types of incidents that require a rescue, and identify all of the issues related to this field. Once all of the details have been fleshed out, we can start to identify what requires funding and establish a budget. We are working to establish criteria for this issue.

Yes, this service is a critical one, and I would like to express my thanks to people involved in the search and rescue teams in the communities. Should they be listening in, I would like to express our gratitude towards the people who provide this service that is large since they do their utmost to fulfill their responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Their importance is exactly the reason why we need to provide adequate support to the search and rescue teams. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list here. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Protection Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,606,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to J-8. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question. Your department's proposed budget for building maintenance is increasing by over \$1 million, from \$23,799,000 to \$25.1 million. What accounts for this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's all based on new infrastructure, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can expand a little bit on whether it is money that's going to the communities so that they can buy their own infrastructure or if it is just for repairs to the infrastructure they presently have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, it's just for GN infrastructure, as the communities are funded through their funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list here. Community and Government. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in this area. In Taloyoak, they are constructing a hamlet office, but the furniture and equipment didn't arrive last fall. When can we expect to see the furniture and equipment arrive to the

community for the new facility that is to open this coming spring? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. The furniture for the hamlet office is to arrive when the ship arrives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$33,671,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go back to page J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$184,698,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Is the committee in agreement that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would like to thank the minister and his staff for appearing before us. Any closing comments?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I wish to thank all of the staff working at the Department of Community and Government Services. We have a multitude of employees in our

department and various responsibilities stemming from our relationships with the hamlets. Thank you all for your tireless work.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my officials who were here for this review. I thank you and our support staff sitting in the Gallery. We appreciate your hard work as we work towards servicing our communities' needs and we hope to continue to move forward to meet their needs.

To my colleagues, thank you for the issues you raised, including your recommendations to improve our emergency services and in particular, with respect to search and rescue. We want to inform you that we will not just take note of your recommendations, but we will work towards implementing them and dealing with the issues as they arise.

I believe that is all, Mr. Chairman, but to conclude, I want to reiterate my thankfulness to the volunteers who form the search and rescue teams in the communities. They provide a very valuable service when people need to be rescued.

I hope that everyone has a very pleasant day today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would also like to thank the minister for appearing in front of the committee here and the staff. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and staff out.

Thank you. We will be dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation,

Minister Curley, to make his opening remarks.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, committee members. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to meet with the members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2011-12 main estimates and business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Fiscal 2011-12 GN funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation will increase by \$11,117,000 from the main estimates of 2010-11. The increase includes:

- \$4,608,000 for O&M costs for new public housing that will be available during the year;
- \$2,837,000 for increases in staff housing lease rates;
- \$1,316,000 for administration related to a decrease in own source revenues and an increase in travel budget to better support LHOs; and
- \$1,949,000 to offset the net reduction in CMHC funding.

The need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative sources of funding.

I look forward to lobbying the federal government to continue to discuss our growing housing issues in Nunavut and the requirements for extra funding for both capital and operating costs.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2011-12 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Curley, could you please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Alain Barriault, and also to my left is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Chief Financial Officer, Lori Kimball. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have comments? Go ahead, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the corporation's proposed 2011-12 main estimates of \$143,759,000 has increased by approximately 7.7 percent since the introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates. The number of positions in the corporation is 88. This is a decrease of 15.0 PYs from its 2010-11 business plan. The standing committee notes that the majority of this decrease in the number of PYs is due to term positions that are expiring on March 31, 2011.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 annual report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 28, 2010. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2009-2010 annual report in the Legislative Assembly and emphasizes how important it is that the corporation table its annual reports in a timely manner.

On October 21 of last year, the minister tabled the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting report for the 2008-09 fiscal year. This item was subsequently referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. The standing committee looks forward to the

minister tabling the corporation's 2009-2010 contracting report in the Legislative Assembly and reviewing it in detail.

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

Mr. Chairman, on January 20 of this year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a news release concerning the changes being made to strengthen the financial management and the governance structure of the corporation. In addition, the minister announced in the House last week that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is continuing to enhance financial controls. The standing committee was pleased to see that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is taking steps to improve its financial management and governance structure and looks forward to the minister providing ongoing updates on these important issues.

On October 29, 2010, the minister announced the results of Nunavut Housing Needs Survey. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2011-14

business plan indicates that the Housing Working Group and the Subcommittee on Homelessness will use the data collected from the Nunavut needs survey to assist in completing the GN Comprehensive Housing Strategy and the GN Homelessness Strategy, which are both expected for the fall of 2011. The standing committee fully supports the minister in his efforts to use these results to secure additional federal funding to reduce Nunavut's housing shortage.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that the "Review of the Staff Housing Policy will be part of the winter 2011 NHC Housing Forum. The results will be incorporated into the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing Strategy." The standing committee encourages the minister to keep the Legislative Assembly fully informed on this issue and looks forward to the minister tabling both a new Staff Housing Policy and the GN's Comprehensive Long-Term Housing Strategy in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. Members note the importance of ensuring that staff housing is available in our smaller communities, especially for health and education positions.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2011-14 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its priorities, which was to "work with senior department officials to begin a process for reviewing and updating the Rent Scale." It indicates that "A review of the current Public Rent Scale as part of NHC's Tamapta Action Plan objectives is currently underway. The NHC expects to have the review

completed by Spring 2011." During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members requested an update on this issue. Members were informed that the review is on schedule and an update should be provided during the spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, on October 26, 2009, all Members of the Legislative Assembly agreed that comprehensive reviews of the public housing rent scale and the Income Support Program are required. Members noted that these reviews should focus on identifying and removing disincentives to entering the workforce. Given the importance of this issue, the standing committee looks forward to the minister keeping the Legislative Assembly fully updated on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's work in this area.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 annual report indicated that a total of \$7,682,000 was spent on homeownership programs in 2008-09. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2011-14 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its previous priorities, which was to "Implement revised homeownership policies and guidelines and monitor success." It indicates that "The NHC has undertaken a review and revision of the current Homeownership Programs Guidelines and Procedures and a new Homeownership Programs Manual will be issued to programs staff prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011." Members recognize that the corporation's budget for homeownership programs is primarily funded through its annual capital estimates. Members encourage the minister to table the Nunavut Housing

Corporation's new Homeownership Programs Manual in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2011-14 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its 2010-11 priorities, which was to "Conduct needs assessment research on homelessness in Nunavut." It indicates that "The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey data has been collected by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics and the report by Statistics Canada was delivered for October 2010. Detailed community and regional tables will be released in early 2011." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2011-12 main estimates have allocated \$400,000 to continue its work through the Homelessness Secretariat. The standing committee looks forward to regular updates on the work of this secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments on the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Considering that we only have one page here, you could ask any questions on that. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need clarification on two different paragraphs, paragraph 5, I believe, and I think paragraph 4. "The need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we

must seek alternative sources of funding." I believe that's one window of opportunity.

The other one seems to be the second to that paragraph. "I look forward to lobbying the federal government to continue to discuss our growing housing issues in Nunavut and the requirements for extra funding for both capital and operating costs." So that seems to be the second window of opportunity.

Are we talking about one and the same opportunity for the fourth and fifth paragraphs? I need clarification on that. Perhaps they have an expense. What are you talking about here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's a good question. We need public input in terms of trying to find alternative housing modes in Nunavut. We're used to pretty well one mode, really: federal dollars coming in, channelled through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the GN, and then we build public housing through that.

Not only the impact that the current public housing in Canada is under national review. Right now, it's a standstill not only for Nunavut. There's a question being asked by the provincial ministers even whether or not the federal government is going to put more money. They pretty much have expired and we only have the current fiscal year with the federal government, and then they don't have future commitments.

So the provinces and as well as all of the territorial governments, including Yukon



and NWT, are all lobbying, along with the provinces, urging the federal government to extend and create new funding. But even within our own House in Nunavut here, we still have to find effective means of providing housing. So that's what we mean, that we must seek alternative sources of funding. I'll leave it at that for now, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** About the second paragraph immediately after "we must seek alternative sources of funding," the other one talks about the requirements for extra funding for both capital and operating costs. Could you expand a bit on that one? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** What that is indicating to the committee member is that the lobby, including myself and my colleagues in the cabinet, simply needs to urge the federal government to commit new funding. I think it will be very important for members to pay attention on March 22 whether or not the federal government will announce any new funding. If they don't for the northern territories, we are going to be scrapped for funds.

There won't be any new housing being built unless we can free up our own GN housing money somehow, but we will never match the federal government's sources of funding that they have made since the creation of Nunavut. They have contributed over 1,000 public housing units, and now we have one more current fiscal year and when that ends... . All of the federal, provincial, and territorial governments are urging with

their letters and the bureaucratic federal deputy ministers have been meeting throughout the year, lobbying the federal government and urging them to announce their funding. Madam Finlay, federal Minister responsible for CMHC, has been quite silent. Last month, we urged her with the signed letters of all of the ministers for a teleconference. She did not accept that. So we need your help, really, in urging the federal government.

We look forward to March 22 whether or not there will be any funding at all for new housing.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Okay, we got Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was almost what Mr. Ningark's was in terms of seeking alternate funding sources. I don't know whether there were any secret pots of money that he knew we could access, but I think he explained that question very well. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Not only with the public housing, I think the corporation will be challenged now to review the way in which it bills, including staff housing. For instance, the GN has been putting up upfront costs directly to staff housing. Would there be any benefit in, for instance, going on the private sector route for staff housing and going in for lease arrangements with private contractors? Whether or not that would help remains to be seen and we have not at all had any policy or whatever changes, but these are up for review right now. That's what we mean

by whether or not an alternative source of funding is something that should be looked at, but we're going to have to be vigilant about how best to try and find resources. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. I seem to remember a few years ago, I thought the approach of the government was to get out of some of the long-term leases that they did have with some of the landlords. I wasn't actually involved in this House at that time, but just reading stories in the newspaper about how some of the living conditions that our government employees were put in because of some of the contracts and some of the conditions that these leased buildings were in, I thought at that time that the government of the day was moving away from leasing the houses and getting out of that service. So are you saying that the GN is going to start doing that again? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the corporation will be doing is a cost-benefit analysis to see what options we can pursue. One of the things we recognize is, going forward, that we cannot do everything on our own. The cost capital-wise and O&M-wise to meet the needs of Nunavummiut cannot be a full burden on the GN. What we wish to explore further is opportunities to assist the private sector in establishing themselves, especially in some of our smaller communities.

So possibly, as Minister Curley has mentioned, if there were opportunities to

lease rather than to build on our own, it could help establish a private sector base in smaller communities. Maybe then they will have the critical mass to start building houses on spec for sale for homeowners and private leasing. So we will be exploring those avenues further. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on the list here. We will go to L-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. In the business plan, it's from page 6 to 21. There is only one page there, so you can ask any questions on this page. Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not really O&M related, but it is in the business plan, so I'll ask the question.

Your draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's priorities is to "Monitor issues of environmental liability due to aging oil tanks throughout Nunavut. If necessary, continue to support the oil tank replacement program, which prioritizes the replacement of oil tanks of senior and vulnerable homeowners.

As of September 2010, there have been 60 approvals and 171 submitted applications."

Can you explain why your business plan indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue support on the program if necessary when it's clear from the number of applicants that the program is in demand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. When you bring that up in the business plan, could you state on what page that is just so we can all follow. Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had the question pre-written, so I don't know where it is in the business plan at this time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reference in the business plan is to the fact that the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program was established for a five-year period. So at this point, it's a program that is set to expire after five years of duration. This program was initiated due to a high demand from homeowners identifying a critical issue in terms of oil tanks that were aging and causing potential environmental hazards.

Besides this program, the Nunavut Housing Corporation still has its Home Renovation Program, which is available to people with an adjusted income of less than \$125,000 per year. So there are other programs that will help address this. This was a particular initiative to deal with homeowners in the specific situation. If there is still a high demand from homeowners for this program towards the end of the five-year period, the intention was to reassess at that point if there was a justification to continue the program or to extend it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to public housing, a lot of their fuel tanks have aged too.

Have you completed a replacement program for all of the public housing ones? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our modernization and improvement programs for the public housing stock of Nunavut, besides heating oil tanks, we identify heating systems and other components of buildings that need replacement, so they are identified and prioritized based on the need. We do have a program that addresses this on a case-by-case basis. We do not have such a replacement program where we are attempting to replace all of the tanks. However, as part of our condition unit inspections and our annual preventative maintenance, we do identify tanks that need replacing and we place them on a priority basis. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of O&M budgets for the local housing authorities or associations, I was wondering: how is that formula calculated as to deciding how much money they receive to operate the core functions within their community? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a funding formula that's used that basically is based on the number of units in the community. We look at whether the unit is owned or leased and whether the lease covers all of the maintenance activity on the unit, same as with the staff housing units that

are maintained or administered by the LHO, and that is plugged into the funding formula. The funding formula is updated every year based on the fixed costs that are part of the funding formula. We look at things like what are our annual audit costs, honoraria, warehouse costs, etcetera, and they are funded for that.

So it's going through the funding formula and it then spits out, kind of, how many employees we're funding and the different levels of employees we're funding. The salaries for those employees is directly based on the NEU salary levels that is applied to the GN as a whole so we make sure that we're not funding at the higher or lower levels in the GN; it's the same as what the GN employees would get. We have compared that those positions are actually at a similar grade as what they would be evaluated in the GN.

Beyond that, we looked at things like material costs for maintenance. There is actually a preventative maintenance list and there's so much time allotted per unit for different preventative maintenance tasks, and then that goes onto outlined requirements for their maintenance funding.

I think that answers your question.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Part of the formula is also the dollar figure that would be generated for collecting of rent on those specific houses that are in their, I guess, stock, I think is what you had said. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do use prior year's rental assessment. So we take the actual audited results as to what their prior year's rental assessment values were, we put in a 97 percent collection rate, and then at the end of the year, we actually look at what their actual rental assessments were and we adjust the funding at the end of the year, the "due to/from" back and forth with the LHO. So it's based on the true amount that has been assessed. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. That helps because I sort of knew there was like a 97 percent payment, but with the number of communities that have arrears, it's nice to know that it gets topped back up.

In terms of the formula and how it's calculated, and if we're talking about sustainability in the future, my understanding is that, through the Nunavut Housing Trust and through the Affordable Housing Initiative, those were capital dollars for the construction but there was no O&M attached to them to provide for maintenance of them. Could I get that correct? Is that in... ? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We actually do factor in the new units that are coming on stream that year and we actually give the LHOs the benefit of that. So if a unit is going to be completed that year, we give them funding for that unit for the whole year,

so they actually get a little bit of a bonus in the year they gain the unit.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's nice to know in terms of the local housing authorities, but how about in terms of the Government of Nunavut itself and the funding that we receive? My understanding is that CMHC provides some assistance which is not provided for these new houses. I was just wondering if you could clarify in terms of sustainability. Where are we as the Government of Nunavut, not at the community but at the government level, going to get the funding for that? On top of that, it was my understanding that as of 2032, there will be no funding for older stock houses as well. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. The funding which we obtain from the federal government was for construction or capital only. As part of this budget submission today, we are asking for \$4.6 million to cover the O&M costs of new housing units that have been added to our stock. As well, there is a reduction. As mortgages mature on the existing housing stock, the CMHC cost-shared funding for operating costs also matures and stops being given to the territory. So we are asking for \$1,949,000 to cover the reduction in CMHC funding for older existing stock. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, what is the housing corporation planning on doing to sort of make it

more sustainable? Are you going to be continuing to ask for an increase every year as these are depleted? As the houses get older, they will need more repairs and work done on them. If the money keeps going down eventually, in terms of the sustainability model, you are going to continue to have to have larger amounts of money coming from the Government of Nunavut in terms of the government as a whole. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I think that's a reality that we face. As the federal government's contribution decreases, we are still maintaining these units unless we found new sources of funding for all aspects, which we will continue to lobby the federal government.

We're not alone in seeking ongoing federal funding for O&M as well. Some of our counterparts throughout Canada are really quite helpful. They're much tougher than us, and Ontario and Alberta, we have some friends from that side, but without resource revenues, in some ways, we're really facing a very challenging situation.

We're still lobbying the federal government. Like I indicated, we have some federal partners that are helping us out on this, but it's something our cabinet is mindful of and we will continue to monitor federal initiatives. These announcements like the federal budget will be key indicators which way they're moving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer because that's what I was hoping to get in terms of that's on the radar screen and it's a concern for the corporation. It's nice to know that other jurisdictions are lobbying as well because then it's not just our territory, it's all across Canada.

The question that I had was I had submitted a written question to your department about the new Nunavut Housing Corporation building here and how you share facilities with the Iqaluit Housing Authority. In the reply that I received, it had said that the Iqaluit Housing Authority will not pay rent for the use of the facility, but on an annual basis, they will have their budget lowered to accommodate for that. I'm just wondering how much it is being lowered this year to accommodate for that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the exact dollar figure available. However, as part of the funding formula, we do look at what the historical costs have been for the Iqaluit Housing Authority to operate their facilities. As they're no longer operating them, then we will be adjusting their transfers accordingly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. We're all fighting for the same dollars in our communities, so I wouldn't want to see Iqaluit get another bone thrown at them, as it could be said.

I don't know if that is more of a question or a suggestion. The sea cans that we talked about when you were before us and the tabled documents, was it 3,000 sea cans across the territory or did they get the numbers mixed up? How many sea cans do we have across the territory? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have quite a large number of them. I do not know the exact number, to be honest with you. However, we do realize that there is a substantial amount of them around. As we have discussed the last time we appeared before the House, part of what we're doing is our spring clean-up is to identify where they are and possible uses for them because we don't want them left derelict in the communities and we want to make use of them where we can. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my head, usually they go for between \$3,000 and \$5,000. If they were \$3,000, that's a huge amount of money that could go to other projects. If they are selling them, and I think that you mentioned the last time you were here, do people have the ability if they wish to contact the local housing authority to ask to purchase one or do they have to contact the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to avoid all of the phones ringing in all of our

communities, I just want to clarify that we will be advertising in the communities when we have sea cans available for sale. Once we have gone through the exercise of determining which ones we wish to keep for our uses, which ones we wish to remove from the community, and which ones we will make available for sale, these will be publicly advertised at that point. So we're not at that point yet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I have actually received messages sent from people who were watching from last week asking when they will be able to purchase them. At least now I can go back and tell them that it will be advertised, depending on what is available. I think, when I figured it out, it was about \$9 million worth of sea cans. That's a pretty sizable amount of money that could go towards some of the other projects that are going on.

That was everything, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2001-14 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Implement revised homeownership policies and guidelines and monitor success." Which policies are being looked at and what changes to them is the Nunavut Housing Corporation considering? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy review referred to in the business plan by the member refers to basically trying to harmonize all of the programs that we have currently in our books. A number of them have been initiated since the Nunavut Housing Corporation was created and a number of them have been inherited programs from the Northwest Territories days. What we were going through is an exercise to harmonize the income requirements and the way that the processes are followed for all of our various programs. So that is the first stage. We have identified that there are some changes to the programs as a result of this review that require cabinet approval before we can implement them. We are moving that forward as we speak.

The second part of our review of homeownership programs was referred to earlier through our housing forum that we held back in January of this year. We're tying that in with our GN Comprehensive Long-Term Housing Strategy development that we're aiming for the fall of this year to have ready. Keeping in mind the results of our Nunavut Housing Needs Survey, we will be looking at what the needs and the demands are within Nunavut and looking at our programs closely to see, in terms of uptake and effectiveness, if we need to revise them in terms of scope and to identify any gaps in our programs.

We also want to make sure that our rental programs, our homeownership programs, and our staff housing programs are all part of a continuum of housing so that they're not developed or looked at in isolation. We want to look at that as well from a more global

prospective, which are all GN housing requirements in terms of what the private sector can do for us, how this ties into transitional housing, long-term residential care facilities, for example, and looking at this from a broader spectrum. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have a method of evaluating the success of homeownership programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our main factor in determining effectiveness of programs is the uptake or the demand for programs. We have a number of programs that have very few applicants, so those can be deemed to maybe have outlived their usefulness. Meanwhile, other programs have very high demand, so those programs appear to be rather effective. Our main measure is the demand for them. But as well, if there are clients who are coming back and reapplying for the same program every few years, then we need to revisit that as well to see if there's a better solution. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list here. We will go to the Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$143,759,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed that Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would like to ask the minister if he has any closing comments.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank all of you. I know that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is a very important agency of the government.

Together, I think all of you, we have a commitment to provide affordable housing and we will continue to do that. We recognize there are some challenges out there, but you have pointed out a whole slew of them throughout the course of the year and I want to personally thank all of you for making your points heard.

Particularly, I want to acknowledge our district officers out there who are doing quite challenging work as well, like monitoring all of the projects that they're building throughout Nunavut, and we want to encourage them to continue that.

Now we have the commitment to restructure the corporation. Mr. Chairman, I just want to let you know that we will continue to work to make the Nunavut Housing Corporation an effective Crown agency and we look forward to the coming season to complete all of the units that we have committed to do so. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. We would like to thank you and your staff for coming in before the committee to answer questions. Would the



Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses out.

Do members agree that we will proceed with the next department, the Department of Justice?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Justice**

**Chairman:** Oh, that was scary.

>>*Laughter*

I got scared for a minute.

I would now like to ask the Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You got quite a jolt there; it woke you right up.

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

The Department of Justice has been allocated a total operating budget of \$88,387,000. This represents a \$10,335,000 increase, or 13 percent, over last year's budget. This additional funding allows us to move forward on:

- Funding for four new community corrections officers.
- A budget increase in the amount of \$2,500,000 for the Legal Services

Board to respond to growth in the delivery of legal aid services.

- An increase in funding for the RCMP to cover pay and benefit increases for RCMP members and the addition of two crime reduction members at RCMP headquarters. These members will provide a proactive approach to address crime throughout the territory.
- We have funding for 45 new positions for the new Kivalliq Correctional Centre in Rankin Inlet. We hope that the majority of staff will be hired from the region. Training will be provided by our Corrections Division prior to staff working with offenders in the facility.
- We have new funding approved for a correctional liaison officer that will better enable the department to provide culturally appropriate services in Inuktitut to offenders located outside the territory.

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

In closing, Mr. Chairman, this is the summary of some initiatives that the Department of Justice is moving forward on. This concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

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

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and witnesses in.

For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Janet Slaughter, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice, and to my left is Christine Bens, she is the Intern Corporate Services Manager. This is her first time appearing before the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Justice.

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

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget of \$88,387,000 has increased by approximately 13.2 percent since the

introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates. The standing committee also notes that the total number of positions in the department has increased from 267 PYs in 2010-11 to 317 PYs in 2011-12. Members recognize that this increase is primarily a consequence of the anticipated opening of the new correctional facility in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Chairman, given the nature of Department of Justice's mandate, it is essential that the department set an example for the government when it comes to respecting statutory requirements for the tabling of annual reports, especially reports that are of high interest to the public, including annual reports under the *Human Rights Act*, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, and the *Liquor Act*. The standing committee looks forward to improvements in the timeliness of these tablings.

In 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011, No. 3*. This contained \$2.5 million in supplementary funding to address the Legal Services Board's "projected year-end budget shortfall." The department's proposed business plan indicates that the amount of annual funding provided to the Legal Services Board is increasing from \$5,807,000 in 2010-11 to \$8,307,000 in 2011-12

The standing committee applauds the minister's efforts to work with his provincial and territorial counterparts to lobby the federal government to fund a greater proportion of the costs of criminal and civil legal aid and notes the contents of the October 15, 2010 communiqué issued by federal,

provincial, and territorial ministers of justice concerning this issue.

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that the Legal Services Board, and I quote, "continues to assess the viability of a stand alone family law clinic at Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik."

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year is to "Investigate independent society status for LSB." The standing committee looks forward to future updates on this initiative following the department's planned review of the board's operations in 2011-12.

Mr. Chairman, committee members raised the ongoing issue of communication difficulties between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the public whom it serves. The standing committee continues to be concerned that a lack of Inuit language capacity exacerbates communication difficulties between law enforcement and the public. Members note that section 3 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that organizations shall communicate with the public in the Inuit language when delivering essential services, such as "emergency, rescue or similarly urgent services."

The standing committee encourages the minister to work closely with the RCMP to address this issue and supports such initiatives as recruiting bilingual special constables into communities. The standing committee also notes that enhanced representativeness within the ranks of the RCMP can be anticipated to

have a positive impact on crime prevention initiatives. The standing committee also encourages the minister to resume the practice of regularly tabling in the Legislative Assembly such items as the annual shared directional statement between the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that "The RCMP has suggested changes to the way large orders of alcohol are shipped into the territory and will continue to provide input into the *Liquor Act* Review." The standing committee supports efforts to strengthen the working relationship between the government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information-sharing initiatives that are intended to combat the illegal sale of alcohol by bootleggers. The standing committee also encourages the minister to pursue his idea of introducing civil forfeiture legislation to address the issue of assets acquired through the proceeds of crime.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed business plan indicates that a one-year pilot project to create a "Healthy Relationships Court" in Iqaluit is under development. Members look forward to ongoing updates on this initiative, including clarification on such matters as the extent to which its decisions will have the force of law.

An ongoing concern of members has been the issue of probation services in Nunavut. The standing committee notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that "Community Corrections has been working at

establishing a 'stand alone' probation service for Nunavut. Probation services that were formerly handled by Health and Social Services are now being conducted by Community Corrections officers in some communities. Community Corrections officers provide supervision, support and programming to adult and youth offenders serving sentences on probation or under conditional sentences. Social Services still provide some services in communities where we do not have Community Corrections officers." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The standing committee notes that one of the department's priorities is to "Complete mentoring and training of staff for the new Kivalliq Correctional Centre in Rankin Inlet prior to opening of the new facility." The standing committee looks forward to regular updates on the status of staffing the new facility and encourages the department to make efforts to maximize local employment at the correctional centre.

The standing committee notes with concern that the department's proposed business plan indicates that "no additional resources have been identified by either Corrections or Community Justice towards the reintegration of offenders after incarceration. Options are being considered by both divisions and this will remain a priority of the division into 2011-2012." Recognizing that a number of important written questions have been posed by Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the department's programs to reduce recidivism, the standing committee encourages enhanced efforts in this area.

In June of 2009, the Department of Justice issued a request for proposals for an evaluation of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. A report was subsequently prepared by the Genesis Group. However, this document has not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Last November, CBC News reported that it had obtained a copy of the report by filing a request under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The standing committee urges the minister to table this report in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's proposed business plan indicates that one of its priorities in 2011-12 is to "develop policy and procedures for implementing Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA) practices including the enforcement of the Orders available under the Act." Recognizing that a number of important written questions have been posed by a Member of the Legislative Assembly concerning this legislation, the standing committee looks forward to ongoing improvements in its administration.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that one of its priorities in 2011-12 is to "review the scope of work currently being conducted by Community Justice Committees." The standing committee applauds the minister for having tabled an annual report on the activities of community justice committees across Nunavut and expresses its support for measures to facilitate their important work.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may have their own concerns and

comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you. My question is pertaining to the opening comments of the Hon. Minister for Justice.

On the second last paragraph of the minister's opening comments, the minister talks about the department encouraging recruitment, training, and advancement of Inuit in positions relating to corrections, community justice, and so on.

My question is in regard to community justice. I believe this has to do with community outreach program workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. Yes, Mr. Ningark is correct; it is community justice outreach workers and community justice committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Subsequent to the response of the hon. minister, how many of the Nunavut communities now have a community outreach program worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. Mr. Chairman, I believe all of the Nunavut communities have community justice outreach workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to welcome the minister and his officials. In regard to the minister's opening comments, there is an increase this year of 13 percent over last year's budget. I'm sure that I will have questions in regard to that issue as we do the page-by-page review.

Mr. Chairman, this is my general comment with respect to the increase. Perhaps it is because the crime rate is increasing. I will want to get that clarification. The 18 percent is quite huge, but I do understand that there is going to be 45 new positions in the new Kivalliq Correctional Centre in Rankin Inlet and I'm sure that is why there is an increase in the operating budget.

In the opening comments, he also made reference to a correctional liaison officer "that will better enable the department to provide culturally appropriate services in Inuktitut to offenders located outside the territory." If I understand that correctly, as we do our page-by-page review, what percentage of Nunavut residents who are Inuit are incarcerated in the correctional facilities? If we look at all of the inmates in the correctional facilities, how many of them are Inuit Nunavut beneficiaries? I meant living humans who are

aboriginal. I would like to get an understanding prior to your undertaking these activities.

Is this funding to be used for the corrections so that they can provide more services to inmates or is this geared towards incarceration? So those are my two main questions. At the appropriate time during the page-by-page review, I'll have more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I'll give the minister a chance if he wants to answer now. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Yes, Mr. Chairman, 13 percent is quite a large increase and Mr. Tapardjuk alluded to it.

The \$5,884,000 is indeed for the new correctional facility. The \$2.5 million is for an increase to the Legal Services Board so they can provide legal services to Nunavummiut. \$564,000 of that is for probation officers. Members have asked for more probation officers to relieve the work of the social workers. \$450,000 of that is to provide the RCMP with two crime reduction members who would work with Iqaluit and all Nunavut communities to actually put programs and initiatives in place to help reduce crime in Nunavut in dealing with prolific offenders, repeat offenders, and help gather intelligence for drug seizures and bootleggers' dealings. Another \$757,000 is for the RMCP pay and superannuation increase. \$180,000 is for the liaison officer in Ontario.

We have a lot of our folks who were sent to Ontario. There are three or four

correctional facilities down there that have people from Nunavut. I visited three of the facilities in 2009 and talked to several of the inmates there from Nunavut. They indicated to me that they would like to have someone who could coordinate for them visits from elders, arrange for country foods, arrange for bibles to be delivered to them, arrange for calling cards and visits from their friends and relatives in Nunavut. There was a person there who was on casual in Ottawa, and then we identified that he's performing such a good service that we would make the position permanent and give him more resources to carry out his duties.

With respect to how many numbers of Inuit who are in correctional facilities in Nunavut and outside of the territory, I would have to get some details on that and provide that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be asking more questions when we go to the page-by-page review and when we reach the appropriate time, we will raise more questions.

We have heard through CBC Radio that Nunavik already has a person who travels to the communities and you can hear the person on the radio talking about incarcerated individuals in the penitentiaries. We will need to deal with the service as well for beneficiaries who are housed outside of the territory. I am very pleased about that. That's just a comment, but I'll be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list here for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with E-4. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$13,346,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to E-5. Branch Summary. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$27,317,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to E-6. Justice. Branch Summary. Mr. Tapardjuk

**Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation):** With respect to the legal aid services in Nunavut, what are the reasons for this increase? I would like to know the reasons. Are the inmates increasing annually? What are the approximate numbers of people being incarcerated or charged with a crime that results in this increase, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. E-6 is actually lawyers who work for legal and constitutional law and legislation in the Department of Justice.

I can answer the question on legal aid. It's a statutory body that's at arm's length from the government and

historically they have been underfunded. This current fiscal year, they identified that they need an increase of \$2.5 million because there has been a significant increase in violent crime, homicides, and attempted murders in Nunavut. They are very complicated, expensive cases to defend the accused and everybody is entitled to be represented in court. So they have asked for the funding in this current fiscal year and an increase to their base funding in future years.

If you recall, in November, there was an increase through a supp bill of \$2.5 million and we are asking for an increase for their base funding in the main estimates. Unfortunately and sadly there is an increase of violent crime in Nunavut and we do have to represent these individuals. I wish it was different, but it's an increase in crime, very serious crime, and that's why we need this increase for legal aid. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It further states under Corporate Services of the Department of Justice that there is a substantial increase of 28 percent. Is this related to the facility in Rankin Inlet or is the reason for opening the correctional facility in Rankin Inlet for this increase? The increase seems a bit substantial if it were just for the opening, as it was \$8,566,000, which is now \$10,956,000. I imagine there are underlying reasons for this increase. I would like to understand why this has increase, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. On what page is that in the business plan?

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The department's draft 2011-14 business plans indicates that the venture for its Corporate Service Division... . Wait; let me try to find it. Perhaps I am mistaken. No, I don't think so.

In the 2011-14 business plan, it indicates that the budget for its Corporate Services Division will increase from \$8,566,000 in 2010-11 to \$10,956,000 in 2011-12. The increase is approximately 28 percent. Perhaps they still have not understood my point, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. If it's on page 61 of the business plan, the corporate services increase of \$2.5 million is for the Nunavut Legal Services Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any more names on my list here. We will go to Justice. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,180,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to E-7. Branch Summary. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,418,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): In regard to policing for 2011-14, can the minister refresh our memory? We, as MLAs, have fought hard for recruiting RCMP officers who can speak Inuktitut. You also spoke about the national aboriginal policing services so that aboriginal communities can start to have their own police. What I would like to know is at what stage this is at now. Is it still being pursued? We now have the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and I wonder if it means that we will be able to recruit more Inuktitut-speaking officers. Will the federal government be providing additional money to the Nunavut government? I would like an update on that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for that question. It's an important question. In the Second Assembly, we were asking for Inuit special constables and yes, we initiated that in the Third Assembly. They fund it internally. They started a pilot project and they are working with the Department of Justice. Initially the plan was to recruit five Inuit special constables and send them to the depot.

The efforts have been very successful to date. When they started, I think they had 35 applicants and through various interviews and screening processes, they got it down to approximately four or five. For personal reasons, some of those individuals who were eligible and selected could not attend. There currently is one individual at the RCMP depot in Regina. I believe he is graduating in early April. I would hope that he will be a success and a role



model for future Nunavummiut interested in policing.

I don't believe the RCMP is getting additional funding from the federal government for this, so they're funding internally. We're working with them through the RCMP summer student program and through youth academies. In January, they had 60 youngsters from Nunavut who went down to the depot for a week to experience and see what it's like. I talked to one of those individuals and he is interested in pursuing a career in policing.

The RCMP has one or two of their Inuit members who will be participating in career days to encourage kids in high school that policing might be a career they might want to pursue in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I don't have any other names here, so we will go back to Branch Summary. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,418,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to E-8. Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering: in terms of the probation officers, is it four new positions that are coming up in your department? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

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

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, do you know which communities will be receiving those probation officers? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. It will depend on the availability of housing and office space, but we do know that four communities require community corrections officers. Again, as I said, it will depend on the availability of housing and office space, and we're working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to say that we would love to have one in the High Arctic. In speaking with my mayor in Arctic Bay, I know that there's office space and that the hamlet is even willing to help with providing a hamlet house that they have. If you could keep that in mind, it would be greatly appreciated.

In terms of corrections and the new correctional facility that's opening up, I was just wondering: what type of programming will be offered? I think it's sort of alluding to what Mr. Tapardjuk was talking about. Once we incarcerate somebody, what options are they given to be able to rehabilitate themselves and

get back into the communities? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that good question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, if I may bring in a new witness who is the head of that section; he can provide some detailed information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, can you bring in the new witness?

Mr. Peterson, could you introduce your new witness.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My new witness is J.P. Dero. He's the acting director of community corrections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Dero.

**Mr. Dero:** On top of the other programs that we currently offer at BCC, including educational programs, land programs, cultural programs, counselling, and all of the variety of programs we have in other institutions, we will be recruiting a lot of resources from the communities. So we have somebody who will be designated at the facility to canvass the community of Rankin Inlet and other areas to be able to offer programming directly from people

from Rankin Inlet, basically inviting the community to assist in the rehabilitation of the offenders. So depending on the type of offenders we have, we will be matching these resources to the programs needed. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the facility is scheduled to open in September. Has there been much success in recruiting people and collecting ideas from the community in Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, just to be clear, I don't believe the facility is going to be operational in September. We're hoping that it will be complete by September-October and operational later in this calendar year or perhaps early in 2012.

The plan right now is to recruit, I think, 44 individuals in advance and put them in some offices and housing in Rankin Inlet. It's going to be very difficult right now to hire a lot of staff because we need housing to hire. Housing won't be available, I believe, until some time in September, and then jobs will be offered, and then they will have somewhere to live and to bring their families, and so on and so fourth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That confuses me a little because I thought part of what you said in your opening comments was that a big part of

the budget is going towards supporting the opening and the PYs. The increase in your budget is coming from the PYs, but if you're not going to be hiring them until 2012, then that's six months worth of extra PYs that you're not going to be paying people. I'm just wondering: are you anticipating having excess funding in your budget then? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. That's a possibility, but we have to budget for the entire year when we go to the main estimates. This would be base funding for the operation for this year and future years. A lot of that funding will be used for training, paying for temporary housing and temporary office space until we get more permanent office space and housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In discussions that I've had with constituents who have been in BCC or outside of the territory for being incarcerated, when they come back, some of them have been involved with the land programs that are being offered. They actually really enjoy and feel that they actually are receiving the training that they need or the ability to get their life back on track by doing the land programs. I'm wondering: are you increasing the number of inmates who are able to go on these land trips or in the different land programs? I think there is one in Kimmirut, Cambridge Bay, and Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, I have encouraged communities and individuals in Nunavut, if they're interested, to approach the department to open up outpost camps. Particularly in the Kitikmeot, the department has contacted an individual in Gjoa Haven and an individual in Kugluktuk, and they have not come forward with any interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With some of the events that happened last year with the overcrowding in BCC and now with the women's healing facility opened, I think one of the things that was... . I can't remember whether it was a statement that you had made or a statement that was in the newspaper, but with the idea that they weren't able to offer some of the programs offered for the inmates because there was no room to be able to do them, is there room now in BCC to provide programs for the inmates? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I believe we still have an overcrowding issue at the Baffin Correctional Centre, which does make it difficult to deliver all of the programs that we want to deliver to our inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of once the new facility in Rankin Inlet is opened up in 2012, how will you determine which inmates will be going to Rankin Inlet? Will they be brought up from Ontario or across from Yellowknife? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Rather than offer my explanation, I don't deal with the process on a day-to-day basis. I know there will be people who will be repatriated from the south and there will probably be some folks from the Kitikmeot. It's a logistical issue that requires a daily, hands-on movement of inmates and assignment, depending on their case management program. So I will ask J.P. Derooy if he would answer that question in more detail for Mr. Elliott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Derooy.

**Mr. Derooy:** There are various factors deciding where an inmate would be placed. Upon admission, we do a full assessment on every inmate to determine the program needs and their institutional risk factor. Depending on the type of programming available in each institution, the inmates would then be matched as close as possible to the program in each facility.

Another factor would be based on the overcrowding of BCC as well as the willingness of other institutions to take our inmates. As an example, Ontario is reluctant to take offenders or inmates that require to be placed in protective

custody as they have limited space for this purpose. NWT will no longer take offenders with behavioural problems. This also leaves BCC with high-risk offenders like protective custody and mental health clients, basically.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we have capacity within our Baffin correctional facility to handle these behavioural problems that the Yellowknife correctional facility will not take? Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. Well, I guess the answer would be yes. If other jurisdictions will not accept persons with behavioural problems, then we have to accommodate them in the Baffin Correctional Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So do we have staff that are hired with these special skills to be able to provide programs and adequately support these inmates? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, all of the staff or most of the staff of the Baffin Correctional Centre are trained to work with offenders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering: does your department have a cost breakdown in terms of per day for inmates in different jurisdictions to house someone?

I guess what I'm trying to figure out is when the deputy minister or the assistant deputy minister was explaining the reasons why people would be brought to the Rankin Inlet facility, I don't think the cost of housing an inmate in a different jurisdiction was mentioned. I'm wondering if that's part of the ways that inmates would be decided in terms of transfer.

If it's more expensive to house someone in Yellowknife, would they bring them to Nunavut to house them to save some money there and if it's cheaper to have them in Ontario, would they leave them in Ontario? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, I think all of us in this room and all Nunavummiut would like to see all of our folks be in facilities of Nunavut. That's one of the reasons we're building that facility and that's one of the reasons we built the women's facility.

I don't think the determination is going to be coming down in dollars and cents; a lot of it will be tied to what kinds of programs are available to help offenders as well. Depending on the case management profile, if we don't offer certain programs in our facility, we may

be able to help them by sending them to a facility in another jurisdiction.

Of course, we don't want to just incarcerate people, and then they don't receive the proper counselling and rehabilitation programs. We want to ensure that they receive that so that when they are released, they can reintegrate back into communities, work with the community justice committees and other individuals in the communities upon release.

So I don't think it's good that we come down with dollars and cents because we're going to save \$500 here where we should leave that person there. There will be quite complex logistical arrangements to make sure that offenders are moved to different facilities where they get the proper counselling and rehabilitation programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer because that's what I was getting at. I was hoping that it was more based around the inmates' needs and the safety for them and programs for them not based around dollars and cents. I think they deserve more than that.

In terms of the Rankin Inlet facility, is everything...? We just had Minister Curley in here with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but in terms of getting those positions filled, is there proper and adequate housing available or staff housing available for all of the positions that are going to be going there? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again for the question. In September, the plan is when the housing is available that is being constructed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, there won't be an issue. Between now and then, we will have to find temporary housing to accommodate the individuals who we will be hiring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of Inuit employment currently in the corrections system, because there is the Baffin Correctional Centre and then there is the women's healing facility, I think there are young offenders as well, how many Inuit are currently employed? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, we don't have those figures with us right now. If Mr. Elliott is willing, we will be able to provide them to him at some point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the training that the minister was talking about providing, I was curious to find out when the training is actually going to start. I'm assuming it's training for some of the people who will be hired next year in 2012. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again for his question. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Deroy will take that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Deroy.

**Mr. Deroy:** Thank you. In September, we will hire the bulk of the case workers for the facility, but prior to that, we're going to hire basically or fill positions incrementally due to housing. In April-May, we're looking at hiring the four managers of various positions. We're going to train these people basically in the job and orient them into our system. Following that, in June or July, we're planning on hiring eight supervisors.

So the senior case workers and the supervisors, these four managers will help in training the supervisors and of course, they will be in our system, and then after that, basically we will have 12 people. In September, these 12 people will help in training the bulk of the people and then they will be ready by January after that, the whole group, incrementally, basically, and depending on how many housing and temporary office space we can secure until then. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any more questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again for these training positions that are going to be advertised in April, will these be jobs posted in the local papers so that everyone has access and

emphasize that it's a bit of a training position as well? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Deroy.

**Mr. Deroy:** The positions will be advertised through Rankin Inlet's human resource officers and it will be advertised there. Hopefully we will be able to hire everybody through Rankin Inlet. Depending on their qualifications, they will be trained by our current training officers and all of the people who are currently trainers in our own organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was another individual across the territory that didn't live in Rankin Inlet, they are not going to be able to access this training and the position. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I believe if individuals are elsewhere in Nunavut, they could apply for the jobs. One of the reason there's housing with the positions is to enable people from elsewhere to apply for the jobs and transfer to Rankin Inlet. The difficulty will be ensuring that there's housing available for positions when the positions are staffed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the explanation that was given earlier, I thought that it was only going to be advertised in the human resources

department in Rankin Inlet. If I have someone who is in Grise Fiord who wants to apply for this job, where do I tell them to contact in April?

I think this goes along with what other members have been saying about how come the smaller communities seem to get left out of training opportunities and opportunities for jobs and positions. The way it sounds like it is set up right now and the way it was explained to me, and I might have misheard what was said, is that Rankin Inlet will stand to benefit from these jobs and the training opportunities. They're already benefiting from the infrastructure in their community. So if I can get an answer to that, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just backtrack a little bit. There are going to be 45 positions in the facility and there are going to be 33 housing units that go along with the facility, so that would imply that positions are going to be available to people outside of Rankin Inlet. I believe that the Rankin Inlet human resources, depending on what region it is, if it's going to be in Cambridge Bay or Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet, will be engaged to put the ads in newspapers or however they do it. I'm not the HR person. Quite often I do read *News/North* and *Nunatsiaq News*, and I see human resources ads for employment positions in Nunavut and they always tell which region and which community.

So if there's a person in Grise Fiord who is interested in applying for the job in

Rankin Inlet at the correctional facility, I'm sure they will be given that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that because the first time I heard it, it didn't seem the way he explained it the second time. So that's great. I'll just tell everyone to check the newspapers in April for the positions that are coming up.

With the success rate that we have through GN human resources, do you anticipate any problems with the rate of people being hired in terms of getting those positions filled to be able to get the facility opened? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Of course, we hope that the people in Nunavut choose the Government of Nunavut as their employer of choice. We're in a very competitive market nowadays for individuals; there are many opportunities out there for folks. I'm sure we will have to work with career days and other opportunities to encourage people to choose a career in corrections. It could be very rewarding work. As opposed to a local mine, they may choose to pursue corrections.

We don't anticipate any problems, but I don't want it put down and cast in stone that there are going to be no problems because there are always problems when it's up to people to choose where they want to work. We're going to be very

active in promoting the opportunities that are coming up in Rankin Inlet at this facility and we hope that people will apply for the positions that are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott, your last question.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of food services for the inmates in BCC, how will they be provided as well? Is there going to be a contract for that or are you going to be training someone? I noticed there was an article in the paper about a culinary arts class going on in Cambridge Bay. Are they going to be trained locally or will it be just a contract? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I believe we will have our own kitchen. I'll ask Mr. Deroy to provide the details with the planning he is working on for the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Deroy.

**Mr. Deroy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're talking about the Rankin Inlet facility, not BCC. We have our own kitchen there, a fairly sophisticated kitchen that's fully equipped. We will have our own cook and chef and we will do the ordering through sealift like we do at BCC every year and we will be purchasing a lot of local products as well every week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.



**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't be pushing my time limit that you have provided me, just so you know. I have a fairly short question, actually two of them.

The first question is in regard to the Rankin Inlet facility that you just discussed. We are proud of the facility as it allows those who require help to receive help while they are incarcerated, and this is our expectation. Some correctional facilities and jails have little chapels or they have a chaplain. Will we be seeing that kind of thing in the Rankin Inlet facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Yes, there is a chapel at this facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information. We know the chapels and the priests provide a tremendous service to the inmates who need guidance.

My second question revolves around probation officers, as a person who is under a probation order from the courts has to go see designated probation officers. In my constituency, my other community doesn't have a probation officer at all. If a probation officer was available, there would be less people incarcerated because they cannot abide by the probation order due to not having a probation officer. The end result is more inmates are sent to the correctional

facility. Why does that occur? Why does it have to be set up in that manner?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the first question. We are working very diligently to provide probation services to all communities in Nunavut. I believe we currently have services in 11 communities. If this budget is approved, we will have four more and we're hoping to add four every year for a couple of more years after that so that social workers don't have to provide that service.

Where there are no social workers or probation officers, I believe regional probation supervisors can make arrangements to provide those services, but the long-term plan over the next couple of years is to find probation officers to be placed in every community or in most communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I unintentionally broke my statement that I would ask only two questions, but I'll continue to ask my question nonetheless.

Is it true that if the community has no probation officer or if they don't have a social worker in the community that can take on the probation orders, they have to incarcerate the probationer at the correctional centre? Do they really need to be incarcerated, and why is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for that question. I believe that if an individual is on probation in the communities on a probation order, if the person is adhering to the conditions of his probation or his condition orders, there should be no problem.

I believe there is some discretion at the community level. If the RCMP were to pick a person up who has breached his probation, they could take that individual to a community justice committee and deal with it there. We don't want people to go back to jail. If it's a minor thing, they can deal with it at the local level. Certainly that's the intent. But if it's a major issue, then the local RCMP, if a person is on a breach of probation, they likely would be. For example, if they're not supposed to drink alcohol and obviously they're caught drinking, that's a serious breach of probation and they would likely be returned to jail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go back to Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Total Operations Maintenance, to be Voted. \$30,502,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will move on to E-9. Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Total Operations Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,624,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will go back to E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations Maintenance, to be Voted. \$88,387,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed that the Department of Justice is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the committee for asking some excellent questions. That's what this process is all about. I hope we were able to answer questions. If there are any unanswered questions or if you want any additional information over the next few months about any of our programs or the status of facilities, feel free to contact me and I'm available at any time.

I would like to thank my officials who have appeared today. Christine Bens, as I mentioned, this was her first time in the Committee of the Whole and I think it is J.P.'s first time as well. He did an excellent job. It's always good to get folks experienced like this.

I would like to thank our deputy minister as well and all of the folks back in the Department of Justice who worked so hard to put this business plan and main estimates together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would also like to thank the minister and staff for showing up to answer questions.

Could the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the minister and staff out, please.

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Before we start, we will take a 5- to 10-minute break. Once the bells start to ring, you will know that you are to return to the Chambers. We will take a short break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:30 and resumed at 17:56*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for returning to Committee of the Whole. Perhaps Minister Peterson has opening comments on the Department of Finance. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Finance**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Members. I am pleased to present the Department of Finance's business plan and main estimates for 2011-12.

To accomplish our priorities for the next three years and maintain current programs and services, the Department of Finance will need an increase of \$3.9 million. This 6.9 percent increase moves the department's total budget from \$57.5 million to \$61.4 million. This proposed increase in base target funding covers four areas:

- Compensation and benefits - \$1 million;

- GN Employee Medical Travel Fund - \$2.3 million;
- Insurance premiums - \$760,000; and
- Capital leases - \$296,000.

Offsetting this is an interdepartmental transfer of \$432,000 to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for the return of the corporate services function.

The department continues to exercise restraint in the number of PYs, which will remain at 209. Members should note that only 204 of these positions are funded. The remaining five positions are frozen and will be funded as required, either by freezing other positions or seeking additional funding.

The department continues to work on a number of key priorities for 2011-12, which include:

- Conclusion of the public consultation phase of the Minister's Task Force to Review the *Liquor Act*, followed by a report from the task force
- Completion of the WAN/LAN/MAN portion of the Building Financial Information Capacity Initiative
- Increasing the focus on the territorial formula financing file in preparation for a new arrangement as the current arrangement expires in 2013-14
- Working towards implementation of the Human Resources Strategy

I want to thank all members for the comments you shared during the last

Committee of the Whole appearance regarding the 2010-11 business plan. My staff and I take your comments and suggestions seriously, and we have already started to implement some of the suggested changes and we continue to view others as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions.

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

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials to the witness table.

Thank you. Welcome, Minister Peterson, who is the Minister of Finance. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Peter Ma and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Chris D'Arcy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public

Accounts have any opening comments? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Finance.

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

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget of \$61,347,000 has increased by approximately 7.5 percent since the introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the number of positions in the department remains stable at 209.0 PYs. This is the third consecutive year in which the department has not increased in size. The standing committee again applauds the minister for demonstrating restraint in this area given the tendency of too many other GN departments to increase the number of positions in their organization charts each year, despite their not being able to fill a significant percentage of their existing jobs. Mr. Chairman, we must recognize that the bureaucracy cannot grow forever. This is an issue that the Minister of Finance, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Financial Management Board, needs to review.

It is also important to note that almost one-third of the government's total

spending is on compensation and benefits for its own workforce. Every dollar that is added to pay new government employees is a dollar less that is available for other priorities, such as providing increased financial assistance for students to pursue post-secondary education or constructing new capital infrastructure in our communities.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance supports the operations of the government's Public Agencies Council, which has a number of important oversight responsibilities in relation to the governance of the GN's Crown corporations and agencies.

The standing committee notes that Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the GN's five largest Crown corporations and agencies for the 2010-11 fiscal year were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 29, 2010. The standing committee urges the government to ensure that these are prepared and tabled earlier in the fiscal year.

The department's business plan indicates that the process of developing formal Memorandums of Understanding between the government and its Crown corporations and agencies is underway. The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of these items in the Legislative Assembly, as well as the annual mandate letters to the chief executive officers of each of the GN's Crown corporations and agencies.

The standing committee also urges the minister, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Public Agencies Council, to ensure that the corporate

business plans and annual reports of all of Nunavut's major Crown corporations and agencies are tabled in the House on a timely basis.

The standing committee also repeats its call for the annual contracting, leasing and procurement reports for all of the GN's Crown corporations and agencies to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner. Although the most recent Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the GN's Crown corporations and agencies instructed them to prepare such reports, only information related to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's activities has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee would support firm action on the part of the minister and the Public Agencies Council to enforce discipline in this area.

The standing committee also notes its continuing concern with respect to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation given the Auditor General of Canada's recent denials of opinion of its financial statements.

The standing committee also notes the government's recent announcement concerning the creation of a board of directors for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Members note that amendments to the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* will need to be approved by the Legislative Assembly before such a board can be established. Members recognize that the input of the Public Agencies Council will be valuable during the development of these amendments and look forward to scrutinizing the proposed changes.

Mr. Chairman, the tabling of the government's annual public accounts continues to be an issue of concern. The public accounts for the 2008-09 fiscal year were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 19, 2010. The Government of Nunavut's interim financial report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 26, 2010. The public accounts for 2009-2010 have not yet been tabled.

The GN's 2008-09 annual report on procurement activities indicates that the Department of Finance awarded a \$303,000 contract in 2008-209 to an individual to provide consulting services to assist in the production of the public accounts. This was the largest contract awarded to a single individual by the government during the entire 2008-09 fiscal year. The same consultant received a \$205,968 contract in 2009-2010.

Mr. Chairman, the 2009 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly noted that "the underlying cause of the government's lack of progress on our previous recommendations is its limited human resource capacity. Simply put, there are not enough qualified financial staff to properly carry out basic financial functions."

The Department of Finance's business plan indicates that one of its goals for the 2011-12 fiscal year is to "Continue the implementation of a professional training regime enhancing the financial expertise of the territory at all levels." The business plan also indicates that a number of GN employees have been enrolled in introductory accounting courses. The standing committee

supports initiatives designed to provide educational and training opportunities for GN employees, especially beneficiary employees, to pursue financial management and accounting courses that can lead to professional certification.

The standing committee notes that on October 27, 2010, the minister tabled a status report on the GN's action plan in response to the 2009 report of the Auditor General and the standing committee's own recommendations. Members also note with appreciation the minister's praiseworthy efforts to provide regular reports to the standing committee on the status of the department's Strengthening Financial Management and Network Capacity Initiative.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members raised a number of concerns regarding the issue of liquor management, which falls under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Finance. Responsibility for support to the Liquor Licensing Board was transferred to the Department of Justice in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The standing committee supports efforts to strengthen the working relationship between the department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information-sharing initiatives that are intended to combat the illegal sale of alcohol by bootleggers. The standing committee also encourages the minister to pursue his idea of introducing civil forfeiture legislation to address the issue of assets acquired through the proceeds of crime. The standing committee also encourages the department to engage in

dialogue with airlines concerning the issue of how liquor orders are transported to communities in order to address the problem of sudden influxes into communities of large volumes of alcohol.

The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of the work of the Minister's Task Force to Review the *Liquor Act*. In communities where voters have chosen through plebiscite to establish alcohol education committees, the standing committee supports efforts on the part of the department to provide training and support for these bodies, while recognizing the need to review whether their core mandate should be focused on controlling access to alcohol or providing counselling services that might be more appropriately delivered by other entities.

The standing committee notes that the issue of allocating revenues that are received by the government from fines imposed under the *Liquor Act* to alcohol education and treatment programs remains worthy of consideration. This praiseworthy idea was raised by the minister himself during the previous Legislative Assembly. The standing committee emphasizes that such allocations should be viewed as a supplement to existing funding, not as a replacement.

In March of last year, the Legislative Assembly approved a motion calling on the Nunavut Liquor Commission to stop purchasing alcohol products from the European Union until such time as the issue of the EU's ban on the import of seal products is resolved to Nunavut's satisfaction. The standing committee

applauds the minister for having instructed the Nunavut Liquor Commission to respect the will of the House and encourages the minister to table a list of the products that the commission actually purchased as part of its 2010 resupply.

On October 26, 2010, the Minister of Finance tabled the government-wide annual reports on grants and contributions made by all departments during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The standing committee applauds the minister for tabling these important reports and looks forward to future years' reports being tabled in a timely manner.

Between the 2004-05 and 2009-2010 fiscal years, the government spent over \$1,465,000,000 in grants and contributions. The standing committee recommends that the minister, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Financial Management Board, consider the establishment of a government-wide framework for measuring and evaluating the results of the government's grants and contributions expenditures.

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion on the issue of the federal Northern Residents Deduction. The motion called on the Government of Canada to increase the residency portion of the Northern Residents Deduction and to ensure that the residency portion be adjusted on an annual basis to an inflation index that reflects the cost of living in Canada's Arctic. The 2008 federal budget announced a 10 percent increase in the residency component of the deduction. The standing committee encourages the minister to pursue further enhancements to this benefit with his

federal counterpart and notes the impact that such improvements would have in helping Nunavummiut address the high cost of living in the North.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2011-12 main estimates include \$7.4 million in funding for the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program. On a government-wide basis, the GN plans to spend approximately \$33.4 million on utility costs in the next fiscal year. Although the standing committee recognizes that any decisions concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's General Rate Application will not be made until after the report of the Utility Rates Review Council has been submitted to the cabinet, it is important for the government to begin planning for the impact that any rate increases will have on its own expenditures.

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Its purpose is to "subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable." According to the Government of Nunavut's Energy Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007, this fund is supposed to be managed by the Department of Finance. However, the department's business plan does not make any reference to the Affordable Energy Fund. The standing committee recommends that the department's future business plans provide significantly more detail on its activities in this area.

On September 17, 2008, the Government of Nunavut's new Public-Private Partnership Policy was tabled in the

Legislative Assembly. The policy states that "The GN believes that a cooperative approach to building infrastructure through public-private partnerships (P3) can be an appropriate, efficient and effective use of Nunavut's resources to deliver services." On October 26, 2010, the Premier tabled in the Legislative Assembly a document titled *Refined Direction from Cabinet Retreat 2010*. The document stated that one of the GN's priorities is to "Explore financial partnerships (P3s and others) for major capital projects." However, the Department of Finance's business plan does not make any reference to the GN's P3 Policy. The standing committee recommends that next year's departmental business plan clarify the government's intentions concerning the use of its P3 Policy.

Mr. Chairman, amendments were passed to the territorial *Payroll Tax Act* in 2006 to increase the GN's payroll tax rate to 2 percent. The government estimates that it will raise approximately \$20.3 million in 2011-12 from the payroll tax. It is not clear what percentage of payroll tax revenues is raised from the government's own employees and what percentage is raised from workers in other levels of government and the private sector. The standing committee again recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the *Payroll Tax Act* to account for such issues.

The Department of Finance is responsible for administering the territorial *Tobacco Tax Act*. The government estimates that it will raise approximately \$12.7 million in 2011-12 from tobacco taxes. Nunavut's tobacco



taxes are among the highest in the country. However, given the inelastic nature of demand for tobacco products, it is unclear if increases in tobacco taxes have actually had any impact on reducing smoking rates in Nunavut. This is an issue that would benefit from evaluation by the Department of Finance and the Department of Health and Social Services. The standing committee is also aware that the potential health benefits of increasing tobacco taxes must be balanced with the risk of creating a black market for illegal tobacco products as a consequence of excessive tax increases.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed business plan again indicates that one of its priorities for 2011-12 is to "Improve forecasting and budgeting. A review of the existing Main Estimates and Capital Estimates process will focus on ensuring funding approved for Capital captures the associated O&M costs. Consideration will also be given to consolidation of the Main Estimates and Capital Estimates." When this issue was raised during last year's consideration of the department's 2010-11 main estimates and business plan, the minister informed the House that he had no immediate plans to introduce the government's annual main estimates and capital estimates at the same time during the annual budget cycle. The standing committee urges the minister to formally clarify his intentions in this area. As a number of Members of the House will recall, the practice of introducing the annual capital estimates in the fall of each calendar year was undertaken in order to address concerns related to such matters as sealift deadlines.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2011-12 main

estimates and business plan of the Department of Finance. Thank you.

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

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Are there any general comments? Any member can have general comments. If not, we will go to page C-4. I can't see. My apologies, I forgot my reading glasses. Thank you. \$1,174,000. Are there any comments? Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Policy and Planning. (interpretation) Department of Finance. C-5. \$3,285,000. Are there any comments? Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Financial Management. C-6. \$2,821,000. Are there any comments? Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The total is \$2,821,000. (interpretation ends) Comptrollership. C-7. \$16,045,000. (interpretation) Are there any comments? Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Centrally Administered Funds. Department of Finance. \$38,022,000. Are there any comments? If there are no comments, do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to page C-3. Detail of Expenditures. Department of Finance. Total Department. \$61,347,000. Are there any comments? Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Finance is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the members for working with us for the last year in standing committees and other venues on fiscal updates. We got a lot of good feedback and suggestions. I hope we can continue to have your support in the Department of Finance as we go forward in these difficult times, as referenced in my Budget Address earlier this week.

I would like to express my appreciation to my colleagues for being here today as well. I would like to thank my officials who are here today. My soon-to-be ex-official, Mr. Ma, is going to go to the Department of Health soon, so this will

be one of the few last times that he appears with me as the finance minister.

I would also like to thank all of our officials back in the Department of Finance here in Iqaluit and all of our officials and employees across Nunavut who work very hard every day to show that our finances continue to strengthen and we provide good services to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister Peterson. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the minister and his staff from the table, who we also thank for their time.

At the beginning of our committee meeting, we agreed that we would be dealing with the housing corporation, justice, and finance departments. What is the wish of the committee at this time? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue and commence the review of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Nunavut Arctic College, and Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Economic Development and Transportation**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, do you have any opening comments?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Taptuna, you may proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for 2011-12. I will use this opportunity to describe the changes proposed in next year's main estimates and business plan and to outline some of our spending priorities. Following my opening comments, I will be pleased to answer questions posed by my colleagues about the department's proposed budget and program activities for 2011-12.

With me today are members of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's senior team. I will introduce them at the witness table and they will be assisting me in responding to your questions.

The total budget I am proposing for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's operations and maintenance in the 2011-12 fiscal year is \$58,355,000. The department's budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year was \$53,284,000. Our budget for the coming year therefore represents a net increase of \$5,071,000 from the current year's budget. These new funds will be directed to support two key Government of Nunavut priorities: Nunavut's anti-poverty initiative and the maintenance of Nunavut's air transportation infrastructure. The increases will be to four specific program areas as follows:

1. Increased funding for the Anti-Poverty Secretariat from \$500,000 to \$750,000. This will allow the secretariat to continue its work on the development of Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
2. An additional \$1,707,000 will be allocated to a country food distribution system, including innovation in food storage technology, inter-settlement trade, and support for the distribution of country food within the community by place-based organizations. This program will be managed by the Anti-Poverty Secretariat but will be built on partnerships with community organizations.

In the Transportation Branch, the department proposes important increases in the operations and maintenance budgets for both the Nunavut Airports Division and the Iqaluit International Airport Division. These increases are identified in Nunavut's Transportation Strategy and support the strategy's first action item to "ensure adequate funding to support the existing transportation system." The budgets for airport operations and maintenance have not increased in recent years, despite Nunavut's consistent economic and demographic growth. The specific increases we propose are:

3. For the Nunavut Airports Division, an increase of \$1,844,000 for the operations and maintenance of infrastructure in airports across Nunavut. Airport operations and maintenance are

delivered through contracts, usually by the local hamlet.

4. And finally, for Iqaluit International Airport, an increase of \$1,270,000 is proposed. The Iqaluit International Airport is Nunavut's largest and busiest hub, and besides general operations and maintenance needs, it is subject to additional regulatory requirements.

There are also some minor changes we propose to make to current program funding within the 2011-12 main estimates. However, these are reallocations of the department's existing budget rather than increases to the budget. These include:

- An increase in the budget of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation from \$450,000 to \$600,000. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation now has a Nunavut-based board and has appointed a permanent chief executive officer who is both a long-time Nunavut resident and a skilled financial manager.
- Restoring funding for the Strategic Investments Program and the Arts and Crafts Development Program to original levels.
- An increase in the Tourism Development Program, which funds the operation of Nunavut Tourism, from \$1.6 million to \$1.8 million. The creation of the Tourism and Cultural Industries Division, which I will discuss later, required a reallocation of funds in the current fiscal year, but the budget we are

proposing provides a good balance and reflects the department's new focus on tourism.

Mr. Chairman, the department remains committed to the Government of Nunavut's *Tamapta* Action Plan and our budget for 2011-12 focuses on three priority areas from the action plan.

The first of these priority areas is: "Reduce Poverty." As I mentioned, we propose an increased funding for the Anti-Poverty Secretariat to continue the development of Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Strategy through public engagement, as well as allocating funds for the creation of a country food distribution system.

The department's second key role in the *Tamapta* Action Plan is to "Increase support for culture and the arts," which we accomplish through our administration of the Arts and Crafts Development Program and through support for Nunavut's arts organizations, such as the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and the Nunavut Film Development Corporation.

Finally, the department leads on the third *Tamapta* Action Plan priority: "Support community-based, sustainable economies." Together with our business and community economic development programs, our support for community-based sustainable economies is guided by our sector strategies. These strategies are *Parnautit*: the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy; *Sanaugait*: A strategy for growth in Nunavut's arts and crafts sector; and *Ingirrasiliqta*: the Nunavut Transportation Strategy. In addition, as I reported last June, we now have a

preliminary strategy for the tourism sector and we continue to work towards a comprehensive tourism strategy.

Besides the four program areas I mentioned earlier for which we propose new funding, the department's business plan includes priorities for 2011-12 which will be funded out of our existing budget. These include:

- Completion of the consultation process for an initial draft of a comprehensive tourism strategy;
- The Minerals and Petroleum Division will carry out year 2 of the carving stone evaluation project, following up on last summer's work in the South Kivalliq. This initiative combines the knowledge and expertise of both geologists and Inuit carvers to perform site assessments to help secure a reliable supply of stone for Nunavut's carvers;
- Another priority is the negotiation of development partnership agreements for the Mary River iron ore and Doris gold projects;
- In the Transportation Branch, we will continue design work and exploring funding options for Iqaluit International Airport;
- Also in transportation, the Motor Vehicles Division is working to identify a solution for Nunavut's outdated motor vehicles information system.

In addition, the department continues to support of regional socio-economic monitoring committees, which bring together community representatives with

representatives of mining companies, governments, and Inuit organizations to discuss the effects of major development projects. While the Meadowbank mine near Baker Lake is the only operating mine in Nunavut, new projects are coming closer to production. The outlook for some of these new projects is good, particularly Mary River in North Baffin, Doris in the Kitikmeot, and Meliadine near Rankin Inlet, so the work of the socio-economic monitoring committees is increasingly important.

The department has undergone a significant restructure over the past year and this is now reflected in our business plan for 2011-12. These changes are three-fold:

- 1) The creation of Tourism and Cultural Industries Division mandated to focus on the development of Nunavut's tourism industry and cultural industries, such as arts and crafts and performing arts. This division is supporting the development of our Comprehensive Tourism Development Strategy, a project which is currently underway.
- 2) The creation of a business development section within the department's directorate. This section provides critical support and advice on business development programs.
- 3) The creation of a South Qikiqtaaluk office in Pangnirtung to provide improved service to the communities in the Baffin region. This office serves the communities of Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Sanikiluaq, Cape Dorset, and Qikiqtarjuaq, while the Pond Inlet

office will continue to serve the communities of North Baffin.

These changes have brought about improvements in the department's operations and its ability to deliver on its mandate in business development, tourism, cultural industries, and community economic development.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed main estimates and business plan for the 2011-12 fiscal year reflect the priorities spelled out in the *Tamapta* Action Plan as well as our commitment to developing Nunavut's economy and maintaining and improving Nunavut's transportation system.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome comments and questions from members. Thank you. *Qujannamiik.*

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Taptuna, for the record, please introduce your officials. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Deputy

Minister Bob Long and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister for Transportation Methuselah Kunuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I welcome your officials, (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Bob Long (interpretation) and Methuselah Kunuk, (interpretation ends) ADM. (interpretation) Chair of the standing committee, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget of \$58,355,000 has increased by approximately 9.5 percent since the introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 135. This is an increase of 5.0 PYs from its 2010-11 business plan.

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

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities is to "Complete the second and third stages (regional roundtables and poverty summit) of public engagement and complete the Nunavut Poverty

Reduction Action Plan. Begin implementation of the Action Plan focusing on comprehensive community initiatives to address the effects of poverty on those most at risk.”

The department’s proposed 2010-11 main estimates had allocated \$1,312,000 towards its Anti-Poverty Secretariat. However, during the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that \$562,000 of this funding will be put towards the Government of Nunavut’s new Country Food Distribution Initiative. The standing committee supports the GN’s new Country Food Distribution Initiative and looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this new initiative.

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

During the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the government began the practice of providing annual Ministerial Letters of Expectation to Crown corporations and agencies in order to establish priorities and provide direction with respect to their operations and initiatives. Members are aware that the current government, through its Public Agencies Council, is undertaking a new approach to this exercise and looks forward to the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of priority-setting items directed to these Crown agencies.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut’s most recent annual reports on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 28 and 29 of 2010. To date, these annual reports have not included information on the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of the government’s major Crown corporations and agencies, including the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The standing committee strongly recommends that information concerning these Crown corporations’ activities also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

On October 29, 2010, the 2010-11 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the GN’s five major Crown corporations and agencies were tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Finance. These letters instructed them to prepare annual reports on their contracting, procurement and leasing activities for tabling in the Legislative Assembly. During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that the annual reports for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation will be tabled. The standing committee looks forward to their tabling and reviewing them in detail.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also notes with disappointment that neither the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation nor the Nunavut Development Corporation have provided business plans to the standing committee for its review since 2008-09. Members strongly encourage the minister to provide these for the standing

committee's next annual review. The standing committee also urges the minister to table the 2011-14 business plans for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in the House at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that "The review of the Policy on Program Partnerships will be complete by March 31, 2011 and will clarify the role of the Community Economic Development Officer." The standing committee looks forward to the minister providing the results of this review to the standing committee at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan also indicates that one of its 2012-13 priorities will be to "Initiate the preparation of a renewed Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, 2013-2023." Members look forward to receiving updates on the department's progress on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to undertake the second five-year comprehensive review of the NNI Policy in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The standing committee notes that the minister recently tabled the *NNI Review Committee's Summary of the 2008-2009 Comprehensive Review Report*. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the complete version of the *2008-2009 Comprehensive Review Report of the NNI Policy* in the Legislative Assembly and reviewing it in detail. The standing committee also encourages the minister to clarify which,

if any, of the report's recommendations will be accepted by the government.

The standing committee also notes the *2008-2009 NNI Contracting Appeals Board Annual Report* was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 22 of 2010. The standing committee urges the minister to table the annual reports of the Contracting Appeals Board in a timely manner.

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

The department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates include \$1,145,000 in funding for the new Country Food Distribution Initiative. However, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that \$562,000 in funding that was allocated towards the Anti-Poverty Secretariat will be transferred to this new initiative. The total budget for the Country Food Distribution Initiative will be \$1,707,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Members were pleased to see additional funding allocated towards this new initiative and look forward to ongoing updates on this initiative.

The department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates include \$1,050,000 in funding for Nunavut's three business development centres. On September 17, 2008, the report titled *An Evaluation of*



*Business Development Centres in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Regions* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's 2010-13 business plan stated that "A working group, consisting of Business Development Centre and departmental staff has prepared an implementation plan and begun work on specific action items." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that these action items were completed. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this initiative and encourages the minister to carefully evaluate the results that are achieved by the government's investment in this area.

The department's proposed main estimates for 2011-12 include \$2.1 million in grants and contributions funding for the Tourism Development Program and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities will be to "Complete draft of a comprehensive Tourism Strategy for Nunavut." The business plan also indicates that one of its 2012-13 priorities will be to complete the Tourism Strategy with a cost implementation plan and "commence implementation, including development of tourism policies and programs." The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of an updated Nunavut Tourism Strategy.

The standing committee also looks forward to the minister resuming the practice of tabling Nunavut Tourism's annual reports, which have not been

tabled since October 23, 2003, when the 2001-02 Nunavut Tourism annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that two of its 2011-12 priorities will be to "Continue discussions with Baffinland Mines (or successor) on the Mary River Project" and "Negotiate a Development Partnership Agreement for the Mary River and Doris projects." The standing committee looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on both of these issues.

The department's 2010-13 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to "Compile and collect information on poverty through the Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (SEMC) indicators" and "Use SEMC indicators to support the preparation of the antipoverty strategy." The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that the indicators and information coming out of the SEMC meetings "will be used in preparation of the Nunavut Poverty Reduction Action Plan." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The standing committee was pleased by the minister's tabling of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy on June 5, 2009 in the Legislative Assembly. The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one its priorities for 2011-12 will be to "Complete the Implementation Plan for the *Nunavut Transportation Strategy*." The members note that there has been a delay on the implementation plan and hope these issues have been resolved and looks forward to the progress on its implementation of the strategy.

The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities will be to "Conclude policy development for the new Traffic Safety legislation." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The department's 2010-13 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to continue work in relation to a number of significant megaprojects, including the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road, the Iqaluit Marine Facility, and the Nunavut-Manitoba Road. The department's 2010-13 business plan also indicated that it would continue to work on having the recommendations on the *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report* implemented. The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities is to "Bring Transport Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada into partnership to design harbour/dock facilities." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates from the minister on these important initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates include \$20,809,000 in grants and contributions expenditures. In 2009-2010, the department's actual spending on grants and contributions was \$19,918,000. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how the department measures and evaluates the results of its grants and contributions expenditures. Members were informed that the department is ensuring that measurable results will be a part of the department's grants and contributions programs. The standing committee recommends that the minister provide

detailed information to the House on exactly how the department measures and evaluates its grants and contributions expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments from the committee before we go to the page-by-page review? There being none. We will go to page K-4. (interpretation ends) Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On October 29, 2010, the 2010-11 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the GN's five major Crown corporations and agencies were tabled in the leg. by the Minister of Finance. When will the 2011-12 Letters of Expectation for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation be tabled in the leg.? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once they are ready for the next session, they will be tabled at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the 2011-12 business plans for both

of those corporations also be tabled in the leg.? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, your department's 2009-2010 main estimates include \$167,000 in funding for a new subsidiary investment for the Nunavut Development Corporation. However, in your department's draft 2011-12 main estimates, you did not include any funding for a new subsidiary investment. Is the NDC still looking for setting up a new subsidiary and, if not, why not? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, they're going to be doing that, but at this time, they haven't used the \$167,000 yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you. Also on June 12, 2010, you tabled the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2007-08 and 2008-09 annual reports in the Legislative Assembly. When will you table NBCC's 2009-2010 annual report in the leg. and

when will you anticipate that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation will receive a clean audit opinion from the Auditor General? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I anticipate to table that report and the business plan this session. For the other question that Mr. Schell asked, I anticipate that we will be getting a good audit for 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask questions on K-7, which is under the grants and contributions for corporate management. So on K-7, just before we end up approving, the country food distribution, and so there is no confusion in my mind, you are saying that that should say \$1,707,000 instead of \$1,145,000. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** I apologize, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the correct figure under K-7, \$1,145,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Okay, so the dollar value that's there for the \$1,145,000 is correct, but in your statement, you said that the country food distribution system is

\$1,707,000. Where are the other dollars coming? It's not an actual grant but it will be in with the corporate management on page K-4. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with the country food distribution, in your member's statement, you mentioned that it included innovation in food storage technology, inter-settlement trade, and support for distribution of country food.

My understanding is if it's under K-7, community grants, it is \$1,145,000 that communities will be able to write proposals to and access funds within the communities for, I'm assuming, community freezers. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in another witness to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do the members agree to bring a different witness in?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Taptuna, please introduce your new witness for the record.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Ed McKenna. He's the director for the Anti-Poverty Secretariat and he will be responding to Mr. Elliott's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. McKenna. There is a question on the floor if you would like to respond. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. McKenna respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McKenna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Country Food Distribution program, which has a total of \$1,145,000 allocated to it, will be used for a variety of activities, including food storage technology, inter-settlement trade, the storage of food in community freezers, and in addition to that, some low-level processing within the community freezers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McKenna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was I correct in that to access those funds, it would require contacting the community economic development officer and the production of a proposal?

Do they actually have to have a full-fledged business plan to access these funds? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. McKenna.

**Mr. McKenna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there will be eligibility requirements and an application to be completed and information about those, if the program is approved, can be had locally through the economic development officer or they can contact the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McKenna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the \$750,000 that's being allocated to the Anti-Poverty Secretariat, I was just wondering if the minister could actually explain how those dollars will be spent. I'm assuming it's in the creation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy. I'm just wondering: is it for engaging communities for travel to the communities? My understanding was it's for setting up a communication network within the community and having the communities get the funding to set up a network, or if you could give an explanation as to how that would be allocated. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. McKenna.

**Mr. McKenna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$750,000 for the budget for the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat will be allocated for three positions, which will be in a range of about \$350,000. We have allocated about

another \$300,000 to permit the communities to participate in the public engagement process, which would be largely used to offset the cost of their travel to regional round tables, and then finally to the poverty summit that has been scheduled for November this year. There is about another \$100,000 which will go towards materials and supplies, purchased services, and a few contract services.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McKenna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I figured as well, while you're here, if you could help shed some light on how the partnerships are working with NTI, the regional Inuit organizations, and hopefully the federal government in terms of that's one of the key aspects that they keep promoting with country food in the new Nutrition North Canada Program, how your department's working with those agencies to sort of bring everybody to the table. I know sometimes it's hard when you've got a huge territory like we have and different policies and different agendas. How is that going in terms of bringing all of the partners together? Thank you.

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

**Mr. McKenna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's going well. At times, it doesn't go as quickly as everyone would hope, but it is going well. We have created an entity we call the Nunavut Round Table for Poverty Reduction, which is a table at which we all sit as equals. That includes, of course, NTI, who serves as co-chair of that round table, and it includes the regional Inuit

associations as well as representatives from businesses and a number of non-profit groups. Each step of the way that we take we ensure that NTI is right at our side. So far, we've had excellent support for this initiative from NTI and they have been a very important partner, including, by the way, some cost sharing of the round table expenses.

With the Government of Canada, we have a very good partnership with the Rural Secretariat. We also have participation on the round table of two senior staff from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McKenna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was all of the questions in regard to that, so I don't know whether you're going to change the line-up again with my next question.

In terms of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, I know there were some outstanding loans in the past and just from different things I have read in the media, the possibility that those loans wouldn't be able to be collected. Is collection going well with the outstanding loans and them? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Yes, NBCC has been a very difficult file to work with. We're cleaning up the situation that we had there with NBCC and collecting part of the loans that you read in the newspaper is one of them.

Beyond that, I can't really discuss the exact details of these loans as some of these things are confidential with the clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the corporation, it's gone from \$450,000 to asking for \$600,000. I was wondering: for those added costs, what is the department looking to add? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The additional cost is for O&M. There have been no increases for the O&M side of that entity since the earlier days. With the increased costs of everything, space rental, supplies, and so forth, just to keep the entity moving forward, as in anything else, the costs do go up and we have to try and alleviate some of these pressures that are put on the entity due to lack of funds. Yes, it's an increase in the O&M. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have no other names on my list. Do you have any questions? Please notify me ahead of time if you are going to be asking additional questions. If you don't have any further questions, we will move on to the next person. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I'll raise my hand when I'm finished.

My next question is specifically for O&M, and you had mentioned leases and whatnot. Is any of it going to increased salaries or is it just operational costs? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Bob Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has now fully staffed up all six positions and their operation costs beyond that have not increased significantly. In the past, the organization has taken \$450,000, but the entire O&M budget has been in excess of \$1 million, so bringing our contribution towards that to \$650,000 more realistically reflects the government supporting that. In the past, the deficit has been covered off by taking the interest earned from loans and using that to cover operational costs. In the future, if there is a surplus in the interest earned, it will be added to the loan portfolio as funds available to lend out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding was that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation moved from one of the smaller communities into Iqaluit. I would have thought that their operation budget would kind of go

down because it's moving to a bigger centre where you had hoped things would be a little bit cheaper. I know that's what we have been told that sometimes pulling resources to the bigger centres brings down costs. In this case, that's not what's happening. Is that the case? Costs have always traditionally been too high and they haven't been funded properly. Is that what you're saying? Thanks.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I'm not sure who you're directing your question to. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Bob Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe we have underfunded them for their costs. Over the past year, there has been less travel than there was in the past due to their change of location. This increase in money is more of a realistic balance between their costs and what we're providing them as a Crown agency to operate with. They are now also fully staffed up with employees, so there is some increase in costs in that regard, but I suspect that there's a corresponding decrease in the use of consultants and that sort of thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I'm still on K-7 for the

contributions under Corporate Management. You had mentioned that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has sort of been underfunded. Another really good corporation is there and I know they provide Internet access to us year after year after year. We're providing \$300,000 to the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation every year. Are they underfunded as well and should we be bumping up their contribution? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I would like to remind members that you have to go through the Chair so that it will be easier for the interpreters. Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe a year ago, we increased the funding to the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation from \$200,000 to \$300,000, and that is a current request that we continue at that level of funding. They have not asked for additional funding for the operation at their office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Do you have any further questions? I have no more names on my list. There was a name on my list, but the question was posed already. We're on (interpretation ends) Corporate Management. K-4. \$13,131,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) K-5. Economic Development. \$21,557,000. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday the Premier informed us that the government's upcoming public forums on uranium development will take place in Iqaluit, Baker Lake, and Cambridge Bay in March and April of this year. Will your department take the lead in developing a formal GN policy on uranium development or is the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs going to take the lead in developing a formal GN policy on uranium development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. To develop a policy, yes, it's going to be ED&T as we do have the expert geologists and the experts in mining, but also included in the group will be, of course, the Department of Environment, CGS, and EIA that's made up of the Sustainable Development Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page K-7 again under Economic Development for the summary of grants and contributions, there's a contribution to a Visitor's Centre program. Is that for funding that communities can apply for to receive funding to operate their visitor's centre? Thank you.

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



**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's funding for the existing centres that are out there within the three regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In years previous, has that funding been distributed to all three regions or are there certain communities that apply to receive it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The distribution went to the visitor's centres in Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, and Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is the appropriate place to ask the question. Each hamlet, I think, receives a contribution agreement of funds allocation every year for running economic development programs in their community. Most hamlets hire an economic development officer, and then there is extra funding to do certain projects. Is that one case of it as well, the Community Capacity Building program of \$4,454,000? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that

question. Yes, that's exactly what it's for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the distribution of those funds, how is the money allocated? I know, from working on the Economic Development Committee in Arctic Bay, it is \$190,000, but does every community across Nunavut receive \$190,000? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again to respond to that question from Mr. Elliott, yes but there are some communities that do not have an economic development officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the other questions that we had earlier, you said that the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation didn't ask for more funding, so they didn't actually get more, and that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation did because they asked and they needed it. I think communities would like a little bit more economic development money as well, so I'm requesting it for at least my communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I didn't hear any questions, but if you want to comment, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to comment on that. We do have a small pot of money, \$50,000, for the Nunavut economic forums. That's basically for the training of economic development officers within the communities and we do use that for other training development. They meet annually at a certain location that's predetermined a year earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. K-5. \$21,557,000. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question with regard to the NNI Policy, which is on the business plan on page 175. It indicates that the NNI Secretariat is responsible for the NNI. I'm just wondering when you would be examining the NNI Policy and when you will be tabling it in the leg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond in detail with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Bob Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a review of the NNI underway and I believe we will be ready to table the results of that at the spring session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Economic Development. (interpretation) Total

Operations and Maintenance. \$21,557,000. Do you agree? I didn't hear you. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Transportation (interpretation) on K-6. \$23,667,000. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You tabled the Nunavut Transportation Strategy in 2009. Your department's draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that "Work on the implementation plan has been delayed due to divisional workload and uncertainty about availability of resources." Have these issues been resolved and what priorities are being addressed in the implementation plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission and the committee's permission, I would like to bring in my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the committee agree that we have Methuselak Kunuk go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Taptuna, for the record, please introduce your official. Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation Methuselah Kunuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Methuselah. There is a question on the floor if you would like to respond to it, Methuselah Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk:** Yes, we still have capacity issues in that area but we are working on it.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know if he can provide more details. Actually, I understand that it is being dealt with and that they are reviewing their options. Ever since this matter was taken on, how far has it progressed? That's my other question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a supplementary question, Methuselah Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, in the (interpretation ends) Transportation Planning Division, (interpretation) we are trying to create another position that will assist the current employee, as they are too busy with their duties, so that we can move it forward. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities was to "Complete the next phase of studies for the Nunavut-Manitoba Road" and that "The Business Case study is complete in final draft form, and is being reviewed by the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba." When do you expect this review to be completed and will you table a copy of the study in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. My assistant deputy minister will respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. If you can respond to that question, Methuselah Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the business case for the Manitoba-Nunavut Road has been completed, but we are still working on how to get it to the public and table it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, your department's draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities is to "Complete design of the Iqaluit Marine Facility if funding is made available." What is your department doing to secure funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Bob Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are actively lobbying the federal government, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Department of Transportation, and we will require the firm support of the federal government in order to move forward with that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in your department's 2010-13 business plan, you indicated that one of your 2011-12 priorities was to "Complete partnered studies with Transport Canada on feasibility of two Nunavut Ports, and on overall marine transportation needs of the territory." Your draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that "The contract for the feasibility study for ports in Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay has been awarded and work is underway. Phase 1 of the Northern Transportation Systems Analysis is complete." When do you expect these feasibility studies to be completed and when will you table them in the leg.? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have those specific dates on the completion of the feasibility study, even though it has been awarded and work is underway. Once we get closer to the completion date, we will certainly inform the Committee of the Whole of its progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more question. As of today, what is the status of your efforts to lobby the federal government for more support for the construction of small craft harbours? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my assistant deputy minister respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Methuselah Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, we started one harbour so far in Pangnirtung. It's still under construction and we are looking at other communities. We're lobbying the federal government and trying to get other communities to join. That is Qikiqtarjuaq right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Methuselah Kunuk. I have no more names on my list. We are on K-6. \$23,667,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go back to page K-3. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$58,355,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that we have concluded with the main estimates for the Department of Economic Development? Do you agree that we are done with that department?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna, if you have any closing remarks.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my staff here for putting all of this information together, a lot of hard work, including the Department of Finance.

The questions, recommendations, and suggestions by the Committee of the Whole will be taken seriously and I appreciate the scrutiny and questions of the Committee of the Whole.

Again I want to thank some of the other departments that were involved in putting this business plan and our main estimates together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna and your officials for their warm hospitality as always. Thank you for appearing before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the

officials out. Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of reporting progress, raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Good evening. Going to Item 21 in our *Orders of the Day*. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Amittuq.

#### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates and I wish to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? The Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove is the seconder. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Going to our orders of the day. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. There are no hands up. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to members that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for March 9:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 3 – 3(3)
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 4
- Bill 5

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:39*

