



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 22

Friday, October 21, 2011

Pages 1207 – 1247

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Health and Social Services;
Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Minister of Human Resources

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation*

Jeannie Ugyuk

(Nattilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1207
Ministers' Statements	1207
Members' Statements	1209
Oral Questions.....	1211
First Reading of Bills	1227
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1228
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1246
Orders of the Day	1246

A.

Daily References

Friday, October 21, 20111207

B.

Ministers' Statements

075 – 3(3): Release of Two New Environmental Guidelines (Shewchuk)1207

076 – 3(3): The Poverty Summit (Taptuna)1207

077 – 3(3): Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan (Aariak)1208

C.

Members' Statements

123 – 3(3): Congratulations to Recent Graduates (Aupaluktuq)1209

124 – 3(3): Arctic Bay's 3045 Royal Army Cadets (Elliott).....1210

125 – 3(3): Problems with Dust Control in Pond Inlet (Enook).....1211

D.

Oral Questions

172 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Fiscal Position (Ell)1211

173 – 3(3): Government Restructuring (Ugyuk)1213

174 – 3(3): Status of the Government of Nunavut's Functional Review of Decentralization
(Rumbolt).....1214

175 – 3(3): Dust Control in Communities (Oshutapik).....1216

176 – 3(3): Graduating Students and Academic Qualifications (Ningeongan).....1217

177 – 3(3): Lengthy Wait Times for Medical Results (Enook).....1220

178 – 3(3): Two New Environmental Guidelines (Tapardjuk)1221

179 – 3(3): Active Cases of TB in Nunavut (Elliott)1223

180 – 3(3): Fiscal Position of CLEY (Ell).....	1224
181 – 3(3): Update on Funding Community Freezer Initiative (Elliott)	1225

E.

Bills

Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – First Reading	1227
Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – First Reading.....	1227
Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – First Reading	1227
Bill 19 – Family Support Orders Enforcement Act – First Reading	1227
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – First Reading	1228
Bill 21 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 3 – First Reading	1228
Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – First Reading	1228
Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee	1229

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 21, 2011**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Curley if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Good morning, everybody. We will move on to Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 075 – 3(3):
Release of Two New
Environmental Guidelines**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good morning" to all the residents of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide the members with an update on two recently released environmental guidelines my department has produced. The first is the mercury-containing products and waste

mercury guidelines and the second one is the waste lead and lead paint guidelines.

The environmental guidelines provide the public and industry with a simplified, plain language explanation on how to remain or come into compliance with the GN's *Environmental Protection Act*. Our environmental guidelines have thus far been very well received because they provide clear and consistent information.

These guidelines are made accessible to the public and industry on our website. Overall, my department has developed 17 environmental guidelines and more environmental guidelines are planned for the future.

Mr. Speaker, my department continues to strive towards making our environmental legislation understandable to the public because we believe that public awareness and understanding is the key to protecting and preserving Nunavut's natural environment for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 076 – 3(3): The
Poverty Summit**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I want to provide members with a brief update on the progress toward the creation of Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

As I reported to the House at our last sitting during May and June this year, we completed four regional round tables on poverty reduction. These round tables were co-chaired by a member of cabinet – myself in the South Qikiqtani and Kivalliq regions, by Minister Peterson in the Kitikmeot, and by Minister Arreak in the North Qikiqtani region – and also by Jack Anawak, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Vice-President and Chair of the Nunavut Social Development Council.

More than 135 people from across Nunavut attended these regional round tables. Many were among the hundreds of Nunavummiut last winter that participated in community dialogue sessions or listened and offered their views on television and radio call-in shows.

Mr. Speaker, some of these participants now will be invited to the Nunavut Poverty Summit, where they will join invited representatives from this government, Inuit organizations, non-profit organizations, and the business community to prepare Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

Mr. Speaker, this summit will be co-chaired by Premier Aariak and by NTI President Cathy Towtongie. This illustrates the continuation of the partnership we have had with Nunavut Tunngavik since we launched the poverty reduction campaign together one year ago. We will continue to work together and, with all our partners, for as long as it takes to reduce poverty in our territory.

During the poverty summit, which takes place November 28 to 30 here in Iqaluit,

we will decide together on the path we must take to reduce poverty, and then together follow that path. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Minister's Statement 077 – 3(3):
Nunavut's Poverty Reduction
Action Plan**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Taptuna outlined the progress that has taken place during the past year to prepare Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan. I would like to announce the next step in this process. I would also like to express my gratitude to the hundreds of Nunavummiut who have taken the time to participate in the public engagement process that was used to identify our priorities for action to reduce poverty in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, at the centre of this process is our belief that everyone in Nunavut has a role to play in poverty reduction. With this role comes responsibility. This means that government, Inuit organizations, communities, private sector, and non-profit organizations will have to adapt and make changes. We recognize that it may be difficult, but these decisions are being made by all of us, including the public that we serve. And if we continue to do things the same way, we will continue to get the same results, which is poverty.

Next month, I, along with my co-chair, President Towtongie of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, will bring together all of our partners, including people who are currently or who have, in the past, lived in poverty. Decision-makers will be invited to meet here in Iqaluit next month and, together, we will decide on the actions we will take to reduce poverty in Nunavut in the long term. Together, we will take responsibility for those actions.

We will put these commitments into Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan, which will be prepared on the spot and made available to the public immediately following our meeting. This historic gathering will take place here in Iqaluit at the Cadet Hall on November 28, 29, and 30, 2011. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 123 – 3(3): Congratulations to Recent Graduates

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good morning" to all the people in Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honour and celebrate the achievements of the Jonah Amitnaaq graduating class of 2011. This year, a total of 12 students graduated from school. This achievement is a

reflection of their hard work, dedication, and the entire community of Baker Lake is proud of their accomplishment.

As their Member of the Legislative Assembly, I was very honoured to take part in this year's graduation ceremony and present the *Pilimmaksarniq* Award. The *Pilimmaksarniq* Award is presented each year to a graduating student who has demonstrated the quality of acquiring and developing skills through observation, practice, effort, and action. *Pilimmaksarniq* is an important principle in our culture, and I was very pleased to present this year's award to a very deserving student, Ms. Renee Pudnak.

I believe that support for education and lifelong learning must be a key priority for our government. We all want our young people to succeed in life and take on the responsibilities of leadership. Education is the strongest tool by which our youth will succeed in the future, in the present, and also to be able to contribute to their communities as well as Nunavut. I encouraged all of our graduates to continue their education. Mr. Speaker, learning does not stop when you leave high school. It has only begun.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the commitment of our teachers, school staff, parents, and volunteers.

I would like to conclude by honouring each of the graduates by name:

- Adrienne Iyago
- Tammy Kinnowatner
- Kayla Mariq

- Tracy Nateela
- Troy Owingayak
- Eric Perkison
- Renee Pudnak
- Trina Qaqqaq
- Skye Sweetland-Otak
- Bobby Tagoona
- Virginia Ullyot, and
- David Uqayuittuq

I ask all members in congratulating these youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 124 – 3(3):
Arctic Bay's 3045 Royal Army
Cadets**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to salute the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, which recently launched into its 19th year of providing an important youth service for the community of Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the cadet program is a national program for all youth ages 12 to 18 who want to participate in fun and challenging activities while making new friends. The cadet program promotes teamwork, leadership, and citizenship. It helps develop decision-making skills and

increases self-confidence and physical fitness.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Arctic Bay is a proud sponsor of the 3045 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, which is affiliated with the Royal Regiment of Canada in Toronto, Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of Arctic Bay's army cadet staff under Commanding Officer Lieutenant Frank May. They are Officer Cadet Patricia McNeal, civilian instructors Mallory Potty, Jennifer Hafenbreck, and Mickey Akkakulu; Mickey is a former cadet of this corps, and volunteers Irene Swoboda and Barb Huminchuk.

Mr. Speaker, since 1991, this fine army cadet corps has produced national star cadets, participated in cadet exchanges, including summer camp travel on international exchanges, and had a number of staff cadets at Whitehorse Cadet Summer Training Centre.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Arctic Bay's 3045 Royal Canadian Army Corps on the start of another promising year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 125 – 3(3):
Problems with Dust Control in
Pond Inlet**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good morning to the residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise an issue that is a major health concern for the residents of Pond Inlet, especially during the summer, spring, and fall seasons. I am speaking of the problems caused by heavy dust within the community.

Mr. Speaker, there are dust bowls throughout the community as well as the dust which comes up off the roads. When the wind picks up, the dust storms can be violent and extreme.

Mr. Speaker, the municipality does its best to control the dust on the roads by spreading salt water from a truck. The effectiveness of this system is short-lived. The water dries and the dust returns.

Mr. Speaker, the dust in the air is more than just a nuisance. Our elders, our infants, and individuals with chronic lung and heart problems are affected. The dust is a serious irritant for lungs, eyes, and skin. Sometimes you cannot even keep your eyes open when it's really windy.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am confident that any resident of Iqaluit could attest to the dramatic reduction in dust levels following the paving of this community's roads. I am equally confident that there are many communities across Nunavut which

could benefit from some type of paving program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for consent to continue my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed.

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

I would like to encourage the government to consider the feasibility of a Nunavut-wide paving program. There are a number of different options that could be considered. One of the greatest benefits would be to the health of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Madam Ell.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 172 – 3(3): Government of
Nunavut's Fiscal Position**

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

(interpretation ends) In the minister's fiscal update that he provided earlier this week, he indicated that "the projected deficit for 2011-12 is currently tracking slightly lower than our original

projection of \$50 million; it now stands at \$44 million.”

Mr. Speaker, it’s good to hear that the deficit may be smaller than what we feared it would be. (interpretation) Can the minister elaborate on what accounts for the smaller deficit? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Ell. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Speaker, on a monthly basis, the Department of Finance receives variance reports from all the departments and the variance indicates lower expenditures for some like wages, benefits, and some of the programs. That could change. It’s early; it’s only halfway through the year. It’s based on, I believe, September 30, so we still have six months to go. It could go up or it could go down, but we typically don’t get the final results until some time after the fiscal year and then we adjust our financial statements accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that over the past decade, a number of departments have lapsed significant amounts of money. (interpretation ends) In many cases, this is because they have been unable to fulfill a significant number of positions, as the minister said. We are now about halfway, as he also said, through the current 2011-12 fiscal year. Can the minister indicate which departments are likely lapsing funds from their budgets?

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ell for that question. Mr. Speaker, as indicated in my earlier question, it is early. It’s only six months. It could change, so don’t read too much into it. In Finance, we tend to be a little conservative, so we’re not going to be too excited by tracking lower. All departments appear to be managing their money prudently, as we stressed in the budget speech. As I said earlier, the numbers may change. We may well come in at a \$50 million deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have heard some concerns that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth may be lapsing up to \$5 million by the end of the fiscal year. Can the minister confirm whether this is accurate and, if so, what accounts for the department’s budget position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Ms. Ell for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can’t confirm that number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister look into that or can he respond to my question? I wonder if the minister can inform us whether or not the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is predicting a surplus for this fiscal year. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. In your line of questions, you can't switch ministers, so I'll have to rule that question out of order and you would have to ask it to a different minister in a different question.

Oral Questions. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 173 – 3(3): Government Restructuring

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good morning" to the residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

In the minister's Budget Address that he gave in March of this year, he stated that, and I quote, "...the time has come for us to consider the structure of government itself. I suggest that we take a thoughtful look at the number of departments and agencies, their mandates and organizational designs. We should ask whether the current government structure is appropriate, considering our priorities and goals.

Members of the Legislative Assembly have offered thoughtful suggestions in this area and will have more, all of which we would carefully consider during this process."

My understanding is that the minister has engaged a consultant to prepare a report with options for reorganizing the government. Will he commit to tabling this report in the Legislative Assembly before the ending of the fall sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. I appreciate her raising the question. I appreciate her participation. I believe you also spoke to the consultant that we engaged. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I can't commit to tabling the report. I haven't even discussed it with our cabinet yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Mr. Speaker, one of my suggestions to the government has been to divide the Department of Health and Social Services into two entities. Given the recommendations in the recent report of the Auditor General concerning children and family services, it is clear to me that this would allow for better focus on the two mandates of the current department. Is this option being considered by the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question again. Mr. Speaker, during the consultations with the consultant with

various officials in the government and some of the ministers and MLAs, it was discussed and the consultant has looked at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your second supplementary question, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: *Qujanaqquitit*, Mr. Speaker. The minister announced his plans to review the structure of the government in his Budget Address, which he delivered in March. Will the changes to the government's structure be reflected in next year's main estimates and departmental business plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, cabinet hasn't even discussed the report yet. We have to discuss that and then we will have to make some decisions. Depending on what the decisions are, obviously there would be some other decisions made with respect to future budgets. I don't know if it will be in this fiscal year or in the next fiscal year. When there are changes to organizations, there will be changes to budgets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 174 – 3(3): Status of the Government of Nunavut's Functional Review of Decentralization

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Earlier this year, I asked questions to the minister concerning the government's functional review of decentralization. This review is part of the government's *Tamapta* Action Plan. As the minister will recall, she subsequently informed Members of the Legislative Assembly that the government would be paying a Toronto-based consulting firm up to \$220,000 to conduct the review, which was scheduled to be completed by June 15 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is now late October. What did this review conclude and when will she table its report and recommendations in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for asking that question. The review to date has been completed and has been given to the department. The government's functional review of decentralization in the communities looked at how we can improve decentralization and looked at the options. Let's remember that 60 percent of our staff is working in decentralized communities.

Once the review has been completed, we will be reviewing the report and we will have to work at the next steps. They are not available for this fall's session and we will try to make them available in the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This report was due to be completed four months ago. Can the minister explain why it is taking so long to review and draw some conclusions from this report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the review and ask why it is taking so long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of this year, the Minister of Finance announced that the government would be reviewing its organizational structure. I believe that a different consultant was hired for this project. I don't know how much this one cost, but can the minister clarify how these two reviews have been coordinated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is important and two reviews were just completed on how the department is going to be organized. Also, we are doing the same review for the decentralized communities. It's obvious that we can find out exactly what is common to each one of these areas and what needs to be done in both of them, and it would be much easier to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an MLA representing a non-decentralized community, I have been frustrated at times with the way that some aspects of the decentralization model that was inherited from the previous government have worked out in practice. For example, the long delays in obtaining driver's licences have been a real problem for many of my constituents.

Will the minister commit to me that the government will be prepared to move more positions out of decentralized communities if it determines that their location has a negative impact to services and delivery to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is also in the review process to find out why it takes a long time to have some of the services delivered. We will take action

on that and get that kind of answer once we have determined those measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 175 – 3(3): Dust Control in Communities

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

On July 10, 2008, the Government of Nunavut announced \$12.0 million in road improvements for Iqaluit, including road paving. In this announcement, the government indicated that, and I quote, "...with less dust, Iqalumiut can look forward to a healthier, more livable community in the near future."

As I indicated in my first Member's Statement on Tuesday, my constituents also want to see improvements in dust control in the community of Pangnirtung. Can the minister indicate whether the government is considering providing funding to any other communities for road paving? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services., Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all of you. I thank you for your question about that program. Those announcements were made prior to my being in this seat, but you should also

know that this was part of the agreement between the city and the government.

Now, with respect to dust control in Nunavut, it does cause a lot of problems and, as we just heard one of our colleagues, they even experience sand storms in the summer when the wind blows. We are reviewing the matter, especially to try to suppress dust in the summer when the land is hot and dry. We have tried several methods of dust suppression. However, prior to these options being completed, we are considering what would be the best way to maintain dust control within Nunavut.

So we are looking for the best practical methods, whether that is paving the road. They don't actually use asphalt or concrete. We're researching ways and means to try to deal with this problem that a lot of communities experience, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, none of us were here when this program was announced, so I understand completely.

With respect to our community, we would just not be looking at this road, but we would also want to pave the airstrip. If you have ever come to our community, you have noticed that the airstrip runs practically right down the middle of our community. It's not just the airstrip, but we also get very strong winds in Pangnirtung and whenever any vehicles are on the road, a lot of dust is produced.

Once the government has set aside funds into this area, I'm wondering if this could be initiated promptly, especially in our community. I know there are 24 communities, but I wonder if the minister would be able to develop a program for our community as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for that question. Dust suppression is something we're continuing to work on for all of Nunavut and to determine what method would be the best solution.

Now, in regard to which communities would be prioritized, I won't be able to decide that, but we do have a body that deals with deciding who gets first priority and so on. I know for a fact that if your community is very concerned about dust control, this would be dealt with by this body if it were required to deliberate on the matter, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 176 – 3(3): Graduating Students and Academic Qualifications

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, recently I rose in this House to congratulate the grade 12

graduates of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. Their achievement is an important step towards a successful future.

However, every year after graduation, it seems that we hear from a number of very disappointed young adults and their disappointed parents who discover that their grade 12 graduation qualifications are simply not adequate for them to enter the post-secondary program of their choice.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps are taken now to ensure that our grade 12 graduates have the necessary courses and qualifications that they need to pursue higher education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is indeed a very important aspect and we have to be very concerned if we notice areas that need improvement. There are various factors that cause these issues in the schools, which we are now starting to understand how students' learning is slowing down.

Attendance is very important, especially daily attendance. This requires collaboration amongst the parties, not just at the school but with parents. Whenever I am asked to attend a graduation ceremony for grade 12 students, the majority of graduates express their appreciation to their parents for waking them up and telling them to go to school. This is what it

focuses on, that parents are very important in solving this problem.

Teachers also try and see how students can be helped to achieve their potential in that grade. They have meetings to see what is inadequate in their schooling. Various committees are there to find out what is required for students to improve upon within the school system. Maybe if the students need more help on reading or math, remedial actions are determined for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) What I want known with my question is that parents and teachers, as well as the students generally celebrate graduation from high school. My question was with respect to graduates who tend to run into problems. As they reach grade 12, parents have to be the ones to wake them up in the mornings, as disciplinarians understand that. This was part of my question.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a recent story on this issue in the media indicated that the Department of Education is going to focus on the career planning process to help students prepare for their future after graduation. Can the minister update this House on what kind of career planning process is being made available to high school students across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question. In 2010, there were 241 students who completed grade 12 and we celebrated them. That's the highest number that we have received so far, up 106 percent since there have been graduations in Nunavut.

As I said earlier, parents should be more involved when students are choosing their courses for grades 10, 11, and 12. Sometimes when students select courses that are not academic and finish grade 12 and they apply for university, they find out that if they had chosen this and that course instead, it would have been much more beneficial. If parents and teachers can work together with the students to find out what kind of academic requirements the university or college will need, then they can make preparations.

Not all of the courses are available in the north, so they have to choose other courses during the school year. For instance, if the child is all by himself or herself to try and choose what kind of post-secondary school to get into, then that's when more academic upgrading is required. There are people who do help within the school to prepare them for the future. We are working on training the teachers as well as the people in the school to try and train them to find out how to help students going beyond grade 12.

I hope you understand what I'm saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her response. One of the questions that I would like to pose is: can the minister update this House on how many schools in Nunavut currently employ staff, such as guidance counsellors, who can help students plan what courses to take in order to help them reach their post-secondary goals?

How many schools have guidance counsellors? The reason why I'm asking this question is that in the smaller communities, there are fewer guidance counsellors and the students have fewer options. That's why I'm asking this question. How many schools in Nunavut have guidance counsellors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very important to have guidance counsellors in the schools for the assistance they provide. Also, students' needs vary and special needs students need more assistance. We have to identify where students require more help than others.

I would also like to say again that the options students can take... For example, to finish high school, the *Aulajaaqtut* school curriculum is available. It includes life skills and its aim is to help students have a better chance of graduating.

Once I find out how many guidance counsellors we have, I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) It is quite obvious that if students are going to pass grade 12 in Nunavut, it would be good if students can start off school by learning what they need so that they would be ready for post-secondary education after reaching grade 12. It's clear that the need to be prepared is there and that is why I want to raise another question.

The *Education Act* is brand new and we have to ensure that we provide a good future for the students. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify what steps are taken by the Department of Education to ensure that Nunavut's grade 12 graduation criteria meet the national standards so that the Nunavut high school graduates can have the necessary qualifications to enter post-secondary programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been only a few years since the *Education Act* was passed and we're still working on its implementation. Not all provisions of the *Education Act* have been implemented, but we wanted to have an *Education Act* that is specific to Nunavut and that's what we're working on right now, following the Alberta curriculum. That is now in the works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 177 – 3(3): Lengthy Wait Times for Medical Results

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

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the types of health services that can be delivered in our community health centres are limited. For certain treatments, diagnostic tests, investigations, and so on, medical clients must travel to a regional centre or even further to facilities outside of Nunavut in Ottawa, Edmonton, Winnipeg, or Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of a number of cases where individuals are sent down for tests and then told they must stay two or even three weeks for the test results. Can the minister explain why his department prefers to keep medical clients waiting for test results instead of sending them home until the results are ready? I am trying to ensure that the response will be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is raised by many Nunavutmiut and what I can tell you is that we are considering all possible solutions that would eliminate some of the issues you quote. We incur huge expenses in sending patients out, especially some with

illnesses that we cannot treat, so a lot of patients end up staying in the south for lengthy periods, with some patients unable to move out of hospitals. That is why I spoke to this issue last week and I did so based on my own experiences.

Some doctors don't review the previous tests and order a new round of medical tests, including blood tests, and then wait for the results. Only then would the doctors continue on with further treatments. I believe they get immediate results sometimes if the doctor believes that there is adequate information. This could be part of the process. We have informed our health officials to try to look at ways to resolve a lot of problems facing our residents who travel for medical reasons.

Just recently, while I was in Rankin Inlet, I was approached by a patient who talked about taking three or four different blood tests. Some of these results in delays, but some previous test results are not always available for review by the southern doctor. That may be why they order new tests. We have noted this issue and this is something we want to try to resolve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask another question. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the costs for medical travel, including transportation, accommodation, and meals, are extremely high. Can the minister clarify whether or not his department has conducted a cost-benefit analysis to compare the costs of

accommodating medical clients for extended periods of time in regional or southern locations with the cost of returning them to their homes to wait for their test results? Is that what you said would be studied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was trying to say is I think that this is probably part of the underlying reason, where information is kind of going through a bottleneck, especially when there are a couple of doctors who have ordered tests. So if there is any way to make this a speedier process, we are investigating them. There are so many aspects to sicknesses and that's what makes it so hard. This is the one thing we are trying to work on in the health department.

We have heard a lot of concerns and comments about patients spending many weeks down south and that they're just sitting around waiting for results. That is the one area that we want to make improvements. This is an issue I have discussed with my deputy minister and I will continue to have a dialogue with my deputy minister on this issue. I am aware that we need to make improvements in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I recognize that not all medical cases are handled the same way every

time. In cases where a medical client may be able to go home to wait for the results of their test or to wait for the next phase of their treatment, can the minister inform this House who, specifically, makes the final decision regarding their travel home? Is the doctor the only person who can approve that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is the common practice where the doctor approves a patient's travel. The boarding homes have absolutely no say in that. If a follow-up appointment has been set up, then they have to wait until that appointment has been completed. Once the doctor has made the final determination, the boarding homes then arrange the patient's travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Question 178 – 3(3): Two New Environmental Guidelines

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. In his previous Minister's Statement, he stated there were two environmental guidelines that were announced, namely, the mercury-containing products and waste mercury guidelines and the waste lead and lead paint guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, when these guidelines first came into effect and when these guidelines are going to be followed, who administers the guidelines or when they're not being followed, who in the communities can people turn to when they have environmental concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. In both cases in these guidelines, they are that. They are guidelines. They are not regulations or legislation. They are guidelines. The purpose of them is to inform people what the products are, how they can be harmful to human health, how to handle them, how to deal with them, how to dispose them, and what has these types of products.

If there are any concerns about lead or mercury, they can contact our conservation officers. We enforce this under the *Environmental Protection Act* and so does the federal legislation, the Government of Canada, Environment Canada. Again I just stress that these are guidelines. We're trying to help people understand what these products are, how to handle them, and how to dispose them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his elaboration about these guidelines. Let me ask this question first.

The guidelines, I believe, are already available in English and French. Are there Inuktitut versions and are they done in a way to ensure they are comprehensible to people who don't understand English? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for the Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again. Yes, they have been written in both English and Inuktitut. As I said in my statement too, they can be accessed through the website, but I also would be more than happy to provide the member with copies of the guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I raised this question is because we hear concerns from regular members about the importance of education, especially as it relates to grade 12 graduates. What I want to tell the Minister of Environment is that there are still many Inuit who have never gone through the school system and have no idea of how these things have to be dealt with.

Even if you give me all the copies of the guidelines that I can give out to my constituents, we have Inuit who have never gone to school and who probably won't understand those concepts. Mr. Speaker, I am asking this secondary question: can the minister direct his officials to look at more appropriate

ways to pass along this message to those Inuit who have never gone through the school system?

They have a lot of concerns about abandoned fuel drums and metal waste and how they would be disposed of. When Inuit have little comprehension of regulations, it is an exercise in futility to expect them to understand their meaning. Can the minister work harder so that those who have little grasp of the English language can gain much better comprehension, especially when they will be affected by these toxic wastes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to that and I will ensure that the department understands this. These guidelines should be understood by both unilingual and bilingual residents of Nunavut. They are put into guidelines like this in simplified form. We will assist anybody in understanding these guidelines through our local conservation officers, through HTOs, and through any other avenues that we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that most of the directors of HTOs are hunters and do not speak English. They participate in numerous meetings to discuss wildlife issues.

With respect to protecting the environment and the *Environmental Protection Act*, along with its regulations on the protection of the environment and with resource development occurring, such as mining, these kinds of activities cause a lot of concern for hunters. When they attend meetings, can there be a higher priority on ensuring Inuit rights in the protection of the environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for his concern and I would like to assure the member that we are as concerned as he is that all individuals, unilingual and bilingual residents of Nunavut, understand the impacts of the environment and the threats that may be an action of harm on our environment.

So, yes, we will and we do communicate with all HTOs and residents in communities as much as we can. If anybody has an interest or concern in the community, I urge them to go to their local conservation officer and we will try and assist them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 179 – 3(3): Active Cases of TB in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, Health Canada committed \$800,000 to help fight the spread of tuberculosis. According to figures presented in this House by Nunavut's Minister of Health and Social Services, Nunavut had over 100 cases of active TB in 2010. This is the highest it has been in several years. Can the minister provide an update on how many cases of active TB we currently have in Nunavut and which communities are the most effected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, that's a very important question and I would certainly like to respond to it, but I'll take the question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Question 180 – 3(3): Fiscal Position of CLEY

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. As the minister heard, I directed a question to the Minister of Finance about funds that will go unspent in government this fiscal year.

Can the minister inform us whether or not the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will have unexpended funds in this year's budget? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we do prefer to not under-spend, but the Minister of Finance already responded to that question in this House. We are only halfway through this fiscal year, so we are still unsure as to whether we will have a surplus. We should have a clearer picture once we get closer to the end of the fiscal year. At that time, we will know if we overspent or under-spent our budget and be able to make a reply. In the meantime, the Minister of Finance's response is where we are at today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the information that was passed on to me about the possibility of a \$5 million surplus in your department is the case today. What amount are you expecting as a surplus? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we can only respond by repeating that we are just halfway through the fiscal year and we're still handing out funding through grants and contributions. The applications are reviewed and approved if their rationale is acceptable. Where the proposals don't meet what is required, they are not approved. We continue to

spend the funding in that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 181 – 3(3): Update on Funding Community Freezer Initiative

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question towards the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Both the Premier and he did a Minister's Statement about the Nunavut Poverty Reduction Action Plan. In the winter sitting, we approved funding to his department for community freezers. I was wondering if the minister could provide an update on this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We announced on September 15 of 2010 our initiative to try and get the community freezers in most of our Nunavut communities. We see food security as one of the main causes of poverty. It is a concern to the government. We do have a program set up at this time and it's more or less a proposal-based program for each community that wants to attempt to get a community freezer.

At this time, we have been working closely with NRCAN to find alternate sources of energy to operate these community freezers. As you know, Mr.

Speaker, the costs on O&M of these freezers are very high. We have been working closely to find alternative energy sources to operate the community freezers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. It's definitely a needed program. As I know, in my communities, at times when the community freezers do fail because of age and whatnot, it causes meat to be spoiled and whatnot. My next question is: how many communities have accessed these funds to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. At this time, I don't have that information in front of me, but we did work with a community in the Kitikmeot to try and provide some assistance in them getting a community freezer. Other than that, at this time, I don't have that information on how many proposals have been forwarded to our department for such program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the minister could commit to providing that information, as well as providing the information of the dollar values as to how much has been

provided to communities at this point, if I could get that commitment. What I'm trying to get at is to find out, if this program is a much needed program, whether it's something that the government would continue to build on and elaborate. I'm sure they're evaluating the program to see if more money needs to be allocated for it. If he could commit to that, that would be great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The O&M cost on such community freezers is estimated to be around \$24,000. It is a huge cost to the government and to the community, but the main thing is what we're trying to do here, to secure food security for our communities. As you know, country foods is a priority for the communities, but we intend to move that file forward on getting country foods and community freezers to our communities. This, in fact, reduces poverty. Of course, Mr. Speaker, that's one of our principles in our *Tamapta* Action Plan, in our *Tamapta* document.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have been working very closely with other organizations, businesses, NRCan, and even in some cases, we're working with the HTOs to make sure that we come up with the best solution for the communities. As you know, each community is unique, different, and their wants are different from the next community. So we're working very closely with the communities and HTOs to ensure that whatever community

freezers we set up is good for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response, but I don't think he actually answered my question. My question was whether he could commit to providing us a dollar figure of how much was spent out of the actual fund that we allocated for O&M last year, two communities for community freezers, and which communities were applying through proposals.

As he said, it's great that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is partnering with different agencies to access more funding. Out of curiosity and also hopefully in terms of doing my job properly and finding out whether the government is spending the money that we allocate every year, I was curious to find out how much money has been allocated and what communities have shown interest in it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not trying to prevent the hon. member from doing his job properly, but once I get that information, I will make sure that it's available to the House here for the amount of dollars being spent and the amount of proposals that were forwarded to the department on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. We will move on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 16 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 17, *Write-off of*

Debts Act, 2011-2012, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? Nope. The motion is carried and Bill 17 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations)*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 18 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Bill 19 – Family Support Orders Enforcement Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 19, *Family Support Orders Enforcement Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 19 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 20 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Bill 21 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 3 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 21, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 3*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: That was a little easier, eh?

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of

the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 21 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Madam Premier.

Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – First Reading

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Uqqummiut, that Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 23 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 14, and 15 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

Before we continue, we will take a short 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:28 and Committee resumed at 10:43*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good morning. Welcome to the committee meeting. In

Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 14, and 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We reviewed the Nunavut Housing Corporation and we would like to continue the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Once that's completed, we will move on to the Department of Environment and also ED&T. If time permits, we will review the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2012-2013 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would now like to ask Mr. Curley if he has any witnesses that he would like to bring to the table.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in the witnesses and they are available now.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Does the committee agree to have the Sergeant-at-Arms bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Before we proceed, I would like to remind the 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.

The minister had made his opening comments and the chair of the committee has already made his opening comments yesterday. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? You may be able to ask your questions as we go to the page-by-page review. Are there any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the hon. minister as well as your officials. For my education as well as the public viewers, in your opening statements, you had mentioned modernization and improvement. My understanding is when we're going to go line by line, it also affects each community. Do you mind explaining to me what modernization and improvement encompasses, what's involved in that, or what it covers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Once we get to that page, I'll be able to speak to it and we will be able to respond fully. For the line item, we are proposing to spend close to \$6 million. At that time, we will be able to provide further details.

Some houses catch fire and there are some older units that are still functional. We always need to have money set aside for these older units since we don't want our people to live under badly deteriorated conditions. That is why it is important to continue this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Are you done, Mr. Aupaluktuq?

I would like to remind members that the floor is open to general comments regarding the opening comments. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. In that manner, we would not have to put up with long-winded comments. So if you could stick to the matters under discussion. I will allow you to ask your questions on slightly different matters as long it is relevant to the page we are reviewing. This is just a reminder.

Do you have any general comments?
Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 of 4 in the minister's opening comments, he answered a lot of the questions that I was trying to ask in oral

question period, so thank you for answering those questions. Some of the ones that were still kind of unanswered were around the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative I was hoping to get cleared up this morning.

As we were going through the different motions with the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative, there was a lot of emphasis put on the SIP design for new construction of houses. I think that at the time, there was construction of a house down in Ontario or Quebec, and I'm not sure exactly where, but it was sort of the idea that the SIP houses would be more cost effective and save money for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I'm wondering: now that we have sort of gone through a cycle of construction and building and some of the houses are being used, is the Nunavut Housing Corporation finding a considerable saving by using that type of design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad the member asked that question. In terms of a general statement, I think, without going into the details, really, Mr. Chairman, I can't account for some of the rationale that was used by the previous administration. Obviously that was the case for that. The Nunavut Housing Corporation had a completely different set of senior managers, including a finance department, which used rationale for arriving at costs that really, in our view and the views of the other independent

studies that were completed, was not complete.

Having said that, I think we can pretty well see how they invest that amount of federal contribution that came in, particularly the second phase, the \$200 million aspect. I won't go into the first part of the Nunavut Housing Trust, but in my view, I just want to emphasize this because this is critical. I think we're beyond what the public has been made to believe; debacles, issues, and everything. We're now sticking to the budget and we're going to complete these units within the budget that the Assembly has approved. Therefore, we're working hard to get the remaining units ready for the public to enjoy. So that's what we want to do for Nunavutmiut.

If I may use my discretion as the minister, how do we invest when we get an amount, for instance, \$200 million? Should we be using it to develop a plan down south and invest part of that amount and use it when, in fact, it was, in my view, used to create an Ontario job creation initiative to create panels, what they call SIP panels? They used a tremendous amount of investment, overhead, in my view. To me, if I was the minister of the day or the housing corporation, I would not have supported that kind of concept. I would have used all the money that we have to leverage additional housing money.

Maybe we could team up with a financial institution. Now we've got this amount of money. Could we double the housing that has been proposed by the arrangement between the two territorial governments? I'm giving you the broader picture. I think we can find ways

and I think the new housing corporation board will be challenged to find much more effective and cost-effective initiatives for our government, and that's what we want to proceed with from here.

I know I may be raising a lot of questions, but I'm just giving you the difference between the style of the previous administration and the new regime that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I kind of appreciate hearing what the minister is saying in the sense that I think one of the things we, as legislators, and maybe the government need to do to prove to the federal government is if we're going to be entrusted with... I think that's more what I'm basing my questions around is, again, not laying blame. It's just making sure everything is in place.

Where I feel myself personally at fault is the fact that I maybe didn't ask enough questions in the first place when we were asking questions before, when previous ministers responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation before us were telling us... I remember the quote of the day and it still rings in my ears that houses will be delivered on time and within budget. I took that at face value as this is true.

Maybe I should have probed deeper and asked more questions and just said, "What is really going on?" If I come across sometimes, when I'm questions in a way, that I'm trying to find something to lay blame, to me, it's to try and make

sure we're still on track. That's part of my job. I think that's what it is.

With what you're saying in terms of the way that the minister will be running the corporation with his responsibility, my next question is: will the Nunavut Housing Corporation continue to use the SIP design for construction of units? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may update my colleagues here, that shop that was set up in Ontario, I think somewhere around Morrisburg, is no longer part of the arrangement with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. That agreement is put to rest, hopefully, because we always have a bit of legal issues that are being floating around here and there, but that idea is put to rest. It will be up to the new Nunavut Housing Corporation and the senior executive to propose what model and what type of mode should be used for building.

One of the things immediately that we probably learned from history is that it's important to state this: that even my former colleagues in this Assembly, in this government, acquired the project that was already deeply underway because of the arrangement and the contract, particularly the design and aspects of the house, that was the responsibility of the government, the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

It was a labour-only kind of project that they had committed themselves to. Therefore, that allowed, I think, the number of difficulties, and then the

previous housing corporation regime restructured, probably not wisely, the logistical parts of the whole system to a completely, again, new entity that really did not have a track record. It all played into the whole complex situation that we were forced to address.

What we're going to see, I think, is that the new directors, once the housing corporation is completely more at arm's length, they will have to compile all the housing strategies that have been done, they will have to review them all and probably improve them and submit them to the government in a more respectful... . In my view, hopefully that will happen. I think we will see whole new options to do projects in more cost-effective ways. That will be the goal. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with what the minister is saying, it sounds like part of the direction might be to move away from using the SIP designs. That brings up another question. In terms of the infamous telehandlers that were purchased and scattered across the territory, I know that they were purchased to actually do the construction and be used for the construction of the SIP houses. In terms of trying to find needed dollars, is there a plan to sell those or are they still going to be assets owned by the local housing authorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the concept of

building houses for Nunavutmiut will continue to be very important.

I just want to state this again that I think, in the future, it will be important to probably issue... . If there is a large amount of funds that was negotiated with the federal government, we would likely prefer to have the design-build be the direct responsibility of the contractors rather than a labour-only kind of concept. In this regard, the logistics, deployment of all the materials, order and ship, would be coordinated much more effectively, and shipping routes would likely be considered a lot more and tracked a lot more effectively. I think we have learned from the past.

In terms of the details of the mobile equipment stuff and so on, these equipment have played a very important part of the construction during the construction season for the last three years. Our plan is that if the local housing associations were to purchase these units from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, or they wish to sell them, that option is going to remain with the local housing associations. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in oral question period, I had asked questions about the actual inventory of what stock is still out there across the territory and you had said that yes, a detailed inventory had been made. I was wondering again today if I could try and get a dollar value assigned to that.

Again, I think one of the things, in asking questions at times, you hear so

much from different people and someone will come up to you and say, "There is like \$10 million worth of oil burner equipment in one community and there are six boilers in another." To me, there are facts and then there are rumours. If I could get a dollar value, that might actually help me understand a bit better.

Also, if I could find out, once the houses are totally complete, will that inventory be turned over to the local housing authorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very important question and I appreciate that. I want to assure the members that our new Vice-president of Construction, Jamie Flaherty, has done an excellent job. One of his first tasks that he set himself to do was to do a proper inventory. He pretty much directed all the regional directors, at least the divisional managers throughout the regions, to do a proper inventory.

Quantitative inventories, in the first place, are important as the construction continues in a number of places. It has been quantity only so far and, obviously, once the construction is tapering down, the proper detailed accounting and costs will be done on those units. In terms of who will acquire these surplus materials, if any, once the costs have been arranged, I'll get our president to explain on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The material, at this point, has been secured, all the surplus materials we have in all communities, and these are stored in sea containers or at the local housing organization warehouses. Our plan has been to identify these materials and secure them, prevent them from damage from weather and otherwise, but also to have an inventory as to what materials we do have in stock in case we have shortages on the ongoing construction. So we have been making access to this material for completion of construction.

Once all construction is completed, materials that are remaining as surplus that are of use to our local housing organizations for their maintenance operations will be turned over to them. We may have other materials that would be dead stock to them and take up space, so we're not going to burden them with that and we will look at other means to dispose of that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for that response. I know that some of the local housing authorities are struggling sometimes and they kind of know that there are needed materials that they could use out there, but I think they're holding off until all the houses are constructed to make sure. Sometimes, in some of the conversations I've had with employees of the housing associations, it's a frustration where they're saying that they're ordering in this little part and the shipping is more than the part when they know there are some out in the garage or something. Again, I guess that's part of the

frustration, but it's also good to understand how it's actually playing out.

You had mentioned the sea cans and at one time, I think there were 1,000 sea cans, we were told, that are out there probably at an estimated cost of \$3 million. I know that when I asked questions before, there was the option of purchasing to maybe get some money back from those, but at the same time, I think some materials and some of the sea cans were actually shipped out this sealift season. I was wondering if I could get an update on how many sea cans are still out there and if there is a dollar value. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Elliott, I would like to remind you that you do have ample opportunity to ask these questions during question period in the House. As I stated, we're under general comments at this time. You have the opportunity to ask questions in the House, aside from this committee meeting. Minister Curley, if you want to respond to the question.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I don't mind answering his question. We were expecting to hear general comments before answering questions during the page-by-page review. If I can have Mr. Barriault respond to that question, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As previously stated in the last sitting of this Assembly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan for disposal of sea cans is to first make sure

that we meet our needs. We have ongoing construction right now. Some of the ongoing construction has materials stored in these sea cans. Surplus materials from previous construction are also stored in some sea cans. Some of them have already been made available to local housing organizations for storage of their maintenance materials.

As construction winds down, we will have a better idea as to how many sea containers we have need for and use for. We have to look at our overall needs for storage in all communities. We're working on a plan for that right now and until we satisfy our needs, we're not going to dispose of these. Once we decide to dispose of some, they will be made available publicly. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again my questions are based around the minister's opening comments on page 2, where he's giving us an update about the Nunavut Housing Corporation with the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative. I know, in the actual capital budget, there's no line item for sea can purchase and whatnot, so that's why I was asking the question in the way I was and at the time that I am.

At the end of the first paragraph on page 2, the minister was talking about the new administration and the financial controls, which is great to hear. I know that's one of the things that we have been talking about. I still do feel, in terms of speaking with some federal officials and whatnot, that there's a feeling that we need to prove ourselves and continue to prove

ourselves, which may be founded or unfounded. I think what the Nunavut Housing Corporation is doing is they're on the right track.

One of the items that we were told to help with the financial administration was sort of centralizing workers here in Iqaluit. I was just wondering if the minister could elaborate a little more on what's actually happening with that. I think seven positions from Arviat were going to be relocated here and I was wondering if there was an update as to if all seven jobs have been moved here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I am not sure if the translation is getting through in English. This is a general comment section. We have the privilege of question period and so forth in the House. So again, a reminder for when we get to the questions, we can perhaps expand once we get into the page by page of the Nunavut Housing Corporation Branch Summary. I'm not attempting to stop you from this, but a reminder. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will respond only to the federal view. I think it's important to address that and I appreciate the member for saying that. I think it's unfair for the federal government because when I alluded to the previous administration... I'm not talking about a former minister of this government; I'm alluding to the previous government of the day before this Assembly was elected. They set out the terms and all the program aspects of the construction of the Nunavut Housing Trust, which was continued onward by the housing corporation executive of the

day. When the Affordable Housing Initiative was announced, they had the same people who have managed and proposed how the rollout would eventually be released, and so on.

Now, since I became the minister, we have completely restructured the whole Nunavut Housing Corporation structure, not only the finance. We have improved that and we have received support from the executive, my colleagues, that the seven positions would at least be moved from the headquarters positions in Arviat, finance positions, to the directorate here in Iqaluit. That has been a tremendous improvement and I will have our finance corporate officer explain exactly how that is shaping up.

In terms of the federal image, image is something that I cannot control and I don't think it's fair. I don't think Nunavut Inuit should be held hostage by the federal government just because of their refusal to try and accept what steps we have made to improve the previous mistakes that the previous administration, previous ministers, and even the board that initiated the whole confusion and faulty accounting systems. So we have changed all that, and I cannot change the views of the federal government. I don't think it's fair for us to continue to be associated with what happened four or five years ago, which I was not a part of. I certainly did make the point when I was sitting out here that what they were investing in was going to result in the negative stuff, and that's what has been going on.

I only wanted to comment on that aspect, but I'll let Madam Kimball explain exactly the nature of the finance

positions and services that she's responsible for. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you. The seven positions have been relocated from Arviat. Just to clarify, a lot of those positions were vacant in Arviat for an extended period of time.

We now have hired the top four senior positions. We're actually in the process of screening for one of the other positions. We have three casuals in the junior positions and as we fill from the top down, we will have those people participate in the hiring of the indeterminate positions. So it's well underway. We have a dedicated budget manager right now, which is a huge improvement, and that person is just dedicated to staying on top of all the construction and monitoring all of our costs. So there are significant changes in terms of our finance group. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of the minister's opening comments, the second paragraph, he is talking about working with the Quality of Life Steering Committee and working on the GN Comprehensive Long-Term Housing Strategy. The Housing Working Group that completed the gap analysis, would it be possible to get a copy of that gap analysis for all regular members to see and view? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the coordination with the senior officials of the government involved because social housing has an impact on a number of departments, including people who receive income support, and so on. So the advice that our officials have received from them has been quite important. To explain further the details, I'll have Mr. Barriault go through that.

In terms of making them public, once they have gone through our senior officials, I have no problem providing them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Quality of Life Deputy Ministers Committee, a lot of GN initiatives are being overseen and coordinated, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the GN Long-Term Comprehensive Housing Strategy, and the GN Homelessness Strategy. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is the lead agency on the development of those last two strategies, but we're ensuring to do all of the development work in harmonization and in coordination with all of the other GN initiatives, particularly with the poverty reduction.

The gap analysis was prepared through a housing working group for which there is representation from all GN departments and agencies, so we're ensuring to cover all bases and all impacts that this strategy would have as a GN holistic approach. The gap analysis was to identify what services are currently being provided by all government departments and agencies

and to try to identify areas where there is need, but no one is currently responsible or there may be some overlapping responsibility.

There was a discussion document to take us to the next step of completing the actual strategy and it's also a document that is being used for consultation as a tool to consult with other stakeholders besides the GN.

At this point, the gap analysis itself as a document would exist as a PowerPoint presentation. When we're at a stage where this can be shared, we have no problems sharing that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. From listening to everything this morning, it really seems like the Nunavut Housing Corporation is kind of back on track in terms of financial management and also working with all government departments. Again, with the statistics that the minister gave us in his presentation, it looks like we still need a lot more houses to be able to meet the needs of our growing population. To me, it's nice to see that this is on track because we're constantly asked, at least I am, what's happening with it, what's been done, and where it's going.

The last question that I had was on page 3 with the first paragraph in terms of the amount of money and the decreasing allocation by the CMHC. Is this part of what's being discussed as well in the Quality of Life Steering Committee to try and come up with ideas to see how we're going to be covering our O&M

costs for maintenance of these houses? It's going to be \$23 million a year. That's a big budget and it will continue to grow as we get more houses online. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott, and I note that you have run out of time. Minister Curley.

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very important question and quite critical too. Certainly the information that we provided to the member is important. To try and get more details of that, I'll have Mr. Barriault go through some of the numbers here. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The declining federal funding towards existing social housing is a problem that is actually affecting all of Canadian jurisdictions. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is an active member of the National Housing Research Council, which is a group organized through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation where we work with our federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts on dealing with issues such as this one, amongst other issues. We also work with our territorial partners. We have a tri-territorial working group of presidents and senior officials. This is also one of our topics that we work on.

As a group, territorially and nationally, we are working on documents and lobbying to the federal government for

means of sustaining and ensuring viability of our existing social housing stock. All jurisdictions are in the same boat as far as this situation is concerned. As well, we do work with other lobbying groups. Patsy Kuksuk, our vice-president of operations, sits on the national board of the Canadian Housing Renewal Agency. So we do approach this from as many aspects as we can. It's an ongoing concern, one that no one has found a magic solution for.

In terms of other means of mitigating these increased costs, we are getting good ideas and we are collaborating with our partners in this. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We can now go to the page-by-page review. I'm sorry. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you were going to overlook me.

I would just like clarification from the minister. On the first page of his opening comments, it states that new staff housing units are constructed and older units are renovated in the communities. Who decides and in what way do they determine who has the greatest need? Is it according to the advice from the departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, other agencies, and all departments are increasing their annual budgets, along with a growth in

staffing, especially in the areas of education and health. They are required to identify their needs for new units, for example, if there is a new school and there is an increase in the number of teachers.

Each department is consulted on what additional units we would have to build. We make decisions based on these consultations. A lack of new units would be one criterion. If there's going to be an increase, they identify the cost of constructing each unit. The housing corporation works with all the departments, but we don't construct the staff housing units. We have to make an agreement with the client department.

That's the process we follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Mr. Chairman, if my question is not appropriate, you may stop me, particularly if you think it's outside the context here. Perhaps I could raise this question so that we will be on the same page. I have several more questions, but I want to ask this question first. If the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation cannot answer, I will understand.

When the Nunavut Housing Corporation is tasked to construct new units for one of the departments, are they tasked to construct these units because there will be positions that will be opened? I imagine that they don't just undertake construction projects for nothing. I imagine they have a vision, such as

when a department notifies the housing corporation when they need units built for their staff. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I believe I responded to that question. We said that the departments have an annual budget based on estimates where they identify capital projects prior to the construction season. They identify the communities where the construction projects will be. For example, as I said earlier, if there will be an increase in the number of teachers, they generally notify the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Basically, we are treated as nothing more than a housing developer, even though that never used to be the case in the past. Staff housing is now a major part of our mandate. We generally don't identify the number of units on our own. Once we are informed of the need for housing, we have to try to find the units, sometimes by leasing existing units. In a lot of cases, we don't necessarily do construction when there are existing units.

For example, there are quite a lot of buildings in Iqaluit. In some cases, the buildings are leased, as well as in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. However, in the smaller communities, it's almost impossible to lease a building. That's why many of the units for teachers, for example, are five-plexes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of us do understand the responses, but others seem to cause confusion and I regret that.

Mr. Chairman, the question I was trying to raise is kind of right on the very edge. I believe you may stop me because it's bordering on the perimeter of what we're discussing. The reason why I brought it up was and if I can use an example, Mr. Chairman, if we're walking through Pond Inlet, there are a lot of buildings that have never been occupied that apparently are set aside for GN employees. Every year, there seems to be a lot of empty units. Meanwhile, in Pond Inlet, we lack housing units. That's why I tried to raise that question. Why were they built?

Again, departments identify the number of units they require and the Nunavut Housing Corporation then constructs these housing units on request. Again, when we're walking around in Pond Inlet, some of these units have never been occupied and that's why I raised the question. From our perspective, maybe we're just building these units that will never be occupied. Perhaps they initially had people identified to fill these units. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these questions are entirely outside our mandate. When we talk about the number of units in Pond Inlet, there are units set aside for specific departments. I believe there are units for 68 employees who are working for the GN. Some of

these other units are in use, but I can only talk about the facts. I cannot speak about hypothetical situations. There are currently five empty units that we are trying to transfer. Of course, with incoming and outgoing employees, units continuously become empty and then they're occupied. Perhaps that leads to an illusion that they are chronically empty.

The Department of Human Resources deals with a lot of these issues. With respect to these GN housing units, perhaps my colleague from the Department of Human Resources could provide a response. Our priority is not to keep these units empty. That is primarily under the mandate of the human resources department. That's all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I would like to remind you that we will stick to general comments. If you're out of line, you have another opportunity to ask those questions outside the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We're on general comments.

Mr. Enook, are you finished? I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will move on to the page-by-page review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you. Page J-3. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Total Capital Expenditures. \$16,004,000. (interpretation) Mr. Aupaluktuq, I believe you have a question.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A previous question I posed to the NHC minister and his officials in the department's opening comments is

that reflection in the line by line. So I am pleased to ask again for the benefit of the viewers, myself, and for the record: what is the department's definition or description of modernization and improvement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will provide more, not just a definition. This is an important program. Nunavutmiut in our constituencies have needed that service, and I'll have Mr. Barriault explain exactly what the nature of the program is and the amount allocated for that program. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the managing agents of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, collectively known as local housing organizations, which consists mostly of housing associations and housing authorities, are responsible for undertaking routine maintenance of all our public housing stock and, in many cases as well, of owned GN staff housing.

Some of the work that's required to be done on a house are somewhat costly and routine maintenance and would tax their budget and their ability to perform routine maintenance and repairs on our houses. The modernization and improvement program is there to provide that assistance. So the funding is for larger items, for example, sewage tank replacements or insulation upgrades,

drywall, renovations in houses, so things that are of a costlier nature and that we try to approach from a more strategic viewpoint as well.

So if a furnace gives out in the middle of the heating season, we replace it through a work order. However, if we know that we have ten furnaces that are getting near the end of their life, we may want to replace them before we have an emergency and that's where the modernization and improvement program comes in. So it's planned improvements for the housing stock. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that we've got the definition of modernization and improvement out of the way, I would like to ask a couple questions on the substantiation sheets regarding modernizations and improvements.

In the substantiation sheets under background information, it states that the corporation is responsible for over 5,100 units in the public housing portfolio. It goes on to say that in the winter of 2009-2010, condition ratings for all public housing units were completed and that in the spring of 2010, the Nunavut Housing Corporation received a detailed report. Based on the report, what percentage of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing stock is aged to the point that they need major renovations or need replacement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the numbers to the exact percentage of the units.

However, the overall result of the condition ratings on the units we had at that time showed \$44 million worth of repairs requiring to be performed on our public housing stock, but that's everything from urgent repairs to routine repairs to modernizations. So those are categorized and we can break that report down in any variety of ways. The reporting was provided to us on a database, so we're looking at every component of every one of the houses that we did the condition ratings on. So we do have the ability to generate reports on any aspect of our housing stock that we wish to look at.

I'm just looking at a briefing note to see what, if any, further breakdown we have with us presently. Actually we don't have that breakdown with us right now as to what the percentage is that require major repairs.

We do know that, short of the major construction initiatives that we have done through the Nunavut Housing Trust and the economic action plan, most of the houses that we had prior to that were built in the 1960s, 1970s, and then into the 80s, when the major public housing program from the federal government ceased. So we do have a very large proportion of our housing stock that is aging and requiring some renovation.

Some of it is going to have major cost implications. There is no doubt about that. So we recognize it's a looming problem and it is part of what we spoke about earlier.

We are working with our federal, provincial, and territorial partners to look at means of ensuring the viability of our housing stock. This is the situation that most jurisdictions are currently facing. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the M&I program, it shows a dollar value of \$6.34 million and as the minister's official has stated, a great number of these units are in great need of repairs. If you do the math, \$6 million over 5,000 units doesn't add up to a lot of dollars per unit. I know that the minister's official stated some of the things that they're trying to do to secure funds. Can he elaborate more on what his department is doing to ensure that adequate funding is available to maintain these aging units throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to look at some of the information that we have taken. I think we have to take into consideration also that at least until 2037, we do have CMHC helping out with some of the maintenance programs, and so on. So I'll have Mr. Barriault respond further to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the funding that we're requesting from the Government of Nunavut, we are also allocating \$4.3 million annually from the funding we get from Canada Mortgage and Housing each year. So that actually increases the M&I budget to more than \$10 million.

This M&I program has been ongoing for as far back as I can recall from my own experiences with the NWT Housing Corporation and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. So it's an ongoing program that's been in place for more than 25 years. So the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been trying to keep ahead, somewhat, of the maintenance as it goes along, but there is wear and tear, especially on older homes.

In terms of ensuring viability and getting additional costs down, it is a major concern, there is no doubt. Part of what we have to look at is capacity in communities to either do the work in-house or to have availability of local contractors to do this work. So we're trying to ensure that the work is performed in a sustainable manner.

At the same time, we do have the concern that there is declining funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing. As homes age, there will be continued need for renovation and upgrades. So the declining funds to ensure the viability of our stock are part of our overall dilemma that all jurisdictions in Canada are facing.

So we don't have the magic answer to that, but we are lobbying our partners,

who are looking at other means, as Minister Curley mentioned earlier, of partnering with the private industry in terms of creation of new public housing stock, whether it's owned or leased or owned by others, to do this in a sustainable manner. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Tapardjuk

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the officials who are before us. I want to raise this question for clarification while we're dealing with capital estimates. The housing associations have a need for warehousing and office space to administer their housing activities. Do these projects go through the housing corporation for funding, such as for warehousing or office space? There are also a lot of old buildings that get reactivated. If you could elaborate on that, I will be able to raise it during question period at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if there's an urgent need to get a new office.... I know we're in shortage of warehouse space. If there's a dire need, it has to go through the capital estimates process with the housing corporation and committees such as this one. If a community qualifies, we can incorporate them into the capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now have a better understanding. Perhaps I'll be asking that question during question period, so I'll wait until then. I'm done for now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I think that was just a comment. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are specifically on J-5 and it's based around the homeownership programs. There is an allocation to the Kitikmeot, the Kivalliq, the Qikiqtaaluk, and also Nunavut under various. In this year's capital estimates, we're being asked to approve varying amounts, depending on regions and whatnot, but when you look to the capital plan for 2013-17, there's a considerable increase in the amount.

On page 3, also, of his opening comments, the minister was talking about developing affordable housing options and the idea of fostering private sector rental and homeownership solutions. I'm just wondering: is the Nunavut Housing Corporation planning on changing or revising the homeownership programs that they offer or expanding the programs to help with this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the comments that I made, alternative housing methods have to be considered where they are effective. They have to be cost effective, no doubt about it. It's easy to partner

with the private sector, but we will not do that unless it's a cost-effective way of finding affordable housing. It is a mandate that we have.

Most of all, I think, eventually, we will need more federal support because Nunavut is a jurisdiction where there are no alternative means to reducing shipping costs. We are at the mercy of one method of shipping supplies and materials to Nunavutmiut, so we do require federal support. I think that they need to understand that the report submitted by Statistics Canada is an important one and it's also their obligation to respond to Nunavutmiut. I hope that we receive support from all of you that we call on the federal government to put in extra support, even if we complete the remaining contributions for the federal program.

But in terms of the detailed options, homeownership is a very popular program. If there's any way we can improve that and increase that, we will continue and be committed to doing that. We support this method. That's one way of reducing the dependence on social housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on J-5, I want to correct myself. I made a mistake in terms of the way I did the adding. There's not actually an increase; it's a compiling of different years. So I hope I didn't scare anyone.

The final question I had was based around the idea of the comments in the opening comments about fostering

private sector rental. I'm wondering: how would the Nunavut Housing Corporation do that in different ways? If that could be expanded upon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: I think one of the messages that I alluded to throughout my statement is that with the corporate restructuring and particularly the governance structure that will soon be in place, there will be a tremendous discussion as to how best to provide options for providing housing and staff housing, as well as other methods of housing.

I'm trying to seek support from all of you. For instance, I could lay out a number of options. Should the Nunavut Housing Corporation continue to build staff housing, for instance, throughout Nunavut? Would that method be best utilized by the private sector? We don't know yet. We're going to need to review all of these options.

The housing corporation board will be challenged to find cost-effective, again, let's use the word, cost-effective means of providing so that if there's room to transfer public GN funds to social housing, maybe we can transfer that amount. There's always a problem with the long-term leases as well. So that's why I use the word, in a nutshell, cost-effective means.

Let's, for instance, look at co-op housing. Iqaluit is known for having good co-op housing units here in town. Should that kind of concept be looked at? So when I talk about housing

options, it's anything under the sun. If the federal government is going to continue to limit in providing housing for the next number of years, we're simply going to have to look at alternative means.

These are the kind of discussion ideas that I'm trying to signal to the public. We're going to need help from every sector of the Nunavut economy to improve public housing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Also, on J-5, just a question about the seniors and disabled preventative maintenance program; there's \$116,000 allocated to that. I am curious to find out: is that fund used? Is the full \$116,000 used annually? The reasoning or the thinking is: should that be increased or is that a number that's adequate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that detail.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$116,000 annual figure is based on the actual demand that we have been experiencing over the years, so there has been a relatively high demand for this program. We have generally not had a problem in terms of not spending the money.

The program, just to give an overview to members, is based on providing assistance to seniors and disabled persons in Nunavut to undertake annual maintenance of their homes. So the intent is to assist them in being able to remain in their homes. This is a grant which we do assist our clients in finding contractors to perform this work, but this funding is provided based on our historic usage.

As a corporation, within our overall homeownership budgets, we do have flexibility to reallocate some funds rather than turn down applicants, and then in the future funding years, we can increase our request if the demand is there. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Using my discretion as the Chair, I would like to recognize the clock. The long hand is ticking so loudly that I can't really hear members speak. So therefore, I would like to rise to report progress. We haven't concluded this item yet. We will continue with this item on Monday as I still have names on my list. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that

the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus at half past one in the Nanuq Room and a meeting of the Full Caucus on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Orders of the Day:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 20
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 23
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 15
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 24, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:00*

