



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 36

Friday, March 2, 2012

Pages 2002 – 2040

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders
and Youth; Minister of Environment;
Minister of Languages; Minister
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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Nanulik)

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Hon. Fred Schell

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Minister responsible for
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(Amittuq)

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(Kugluktuk)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 2, 2012**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, 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.

>> *House commenced at 9:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo):

Ujannamiik, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Curley if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) *Ullaakkut*, everybody. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to move directly into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper, Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There is a nay. We will continue on in the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Do you have a Member's Statement? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 194 – 3(3):
Appreciation to New Members of
our Community**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to speak about some of our concerns and issues that are confusing us.

Whenever an Inuk or non-Inuk has a concern or problem, everybody looks for a scapegoat or somebody to blame. As Inuit, sometimes we blame our government, either that or our corporations, our education system, our health system, and particularly our churches and/or religion. We tend to look for an easy scapegoat.

In particular, we look at teachers, nurses, bureaucrats, business owners, churchgoers, Roman Catholics, and reverends and priests, but the one thing we tend to overlook, Mr. Speaker, is that these are our fellow human beings. They have their own relatives. They have children. They're working in their lives to live the healthiest they can. I think some of us notice that right next to our house is a neighbour, a fellow human. When you see somebody dedicated to ensuring they live a good life, you can notice.

I believe one of the problems we have, Mr. Speaker, is the foundation of belief is so different sometimes that we automatically dislike others. At this time, in our community, we're trying to retain the Inuit culture. Those who have arrived in our communities have grown up with different cultures and sometimes there's a cultural clash because they

have a western philosophy as opposed to that of the Inuit.

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

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

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

Again, to reiterate, we start running into issues when we don't have a common culture or philosophical foundation. One of the biggest problems we have is there tends to be a chasm of misunderstanding when we don't understand each other's culture or lifestyle. I believe one of the things that can help to close this gap is to try to understand each other's culture and I will make that a priority.

We should let it be known by those who serve us that they have to ensure they know that this territory's foundation is the Inuit culture in its nature. The attempts at assimilation of the Inuit into western society are already over. That area is over, so now they have to come and try and assist Inuit because they are living in our territory.

As well, on the other hand, Inuit also have to realize that we have the capacity and capability to learn and grow, but we also need assistance to reach the next milestone. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I rise today.

The people who arrive into the territory undergo a very hard time, especially those in Igloolik and Hall Beach. I thank you for having come to our community to assist us and those are the nurses, the RCMP, teachers, as well as religious leaders. The majority of people come to provide assistance to the community, but there are still some who cling to the old ways. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I would like to rise today to express my gratitude to everyone who has worked really hard, especially the nurses, because many of them have given their lives to serve the north.

Yes, there are always rotten apples in every barrel, so we've obviously had problems. I want non-Inuit to know that as Inuit, we are not against them; we want to work closely with them in government, even if we have cultural differences. We want to be understood where we're at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 195 – 3(3):
Recognition of Athletes and
Officials from Cambridge Bay at
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize all the Cambridge Bay athletes and officials who are going to Whitehorse for the Arctic Winter Games between March 4 and March 10. Our community is very proud of them and wish them well. I would like to recognize the individuals:

Audla Buchan, basketball;
 Linda Howard, basketball;
 Chanda Evalik, basketball;
 Brittany Hogaluk, basketball;
 Pearlie Mae Howard, soccer;
 John Henry Etegik, speed skating;
 Zachery Roberts, speed skating; and
 Our own Attima Hadlari, our
 interpreter/translator. He is going as
 an official.

I wish them all well and have a good time. Whitehorse is a fantastic city. I have been there many times. That's my birthplace as well. So I'm sure the people will welcome them with great hospitality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We wish them all good luck over there and also to Mr. Hadlari, who is back in the booth there. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 196 – 3(3):
 Nanulik Participants at the Arctic
 Winter Games**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge the athletes from Nanulik who will represent Nunavut at the Arctic Winter Games. We're proud of their accomplishments. They are as follows:

From Coral Harbour:
 Chantel Emiktowt, female basketball;
 Vivian Paniyuk, 15 and under female
 soccer;
 Naomi Emiktowt, 17 and under;
 Maggie Nakoolak, 17 and under;
 Jay Pudlat, male soccer;
 Wesley Siutinar, my *Irngutaq*;

Austin Bruce, hockey;
 Bradley Kaludjak;
 Becky Ottokie;
 Sandy Saviakjuk Jr.;
 William Nakoolak Jr. for wrestling.

From Chesterfield Inlet:
 Elizabeth Kukkiak and James Tautu for
 Inuit games;
 Brandon Ipkarnerk for basketball;
 Greg Tanuyak Jr. for hockey; and
 K.J. Putulik.

I also wish the very best to my *Irngutaq* Alayna Ningeongan from Rankin Inlet who is going to the Arctic Winter Games, as mentioned by the member from Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove.

I wish all the athletes the very best and enjoy your participation at the Arctic Winter Games. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. We wish them all good luck. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 197 – 3(3):
 Alternative Energy Sources**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to recognize the many Nunavutmiut who work really hard, particularly the hunters who are out on the land providing sustenance for their families. I think we have to acknowledge them. We also have to remember that the mothers who are staying at home to look after their children work really hard and I'm sure some of them wonder what they will

feed their children today. You feel very sympathetic towards them.

With harvesters who have to go hunting, a lot of the materials and their supplies cost a lot of money, specifically fuel. Sometimes the prospect of catching wildlife is very uncertain from day to day. Mr. Speaker, be that as it may, Nunavutmiut have long been taught to never give up, that a day will pass where the hunting will be better. I would like to express my gratitude to the fact that this is a principle and value that people hold dear no matter how hard life becomes.

Furthermore, in this day and age, we seem to have that problem where business owners are facing challenges of survival. Money is required to run a business. That being the case, the current practice is inadequate for business owners. We were recently informed that electricity rates will be increased in the next two years. That is government policy.

Mr. Speaker, we also have to be aware of our future. Over the next two years, the price of oil is expected to nearly double from today's prices. Throughout the world, the usage of oil is not shrinking but increasing in response to growing demand. Its impact will be felt in Nunavut and cause hardships to some degree. I think we need to understand why.

We hear about the usage of oil, that the world consumes 89 million barrels of oil per day. In three years, that will rise to 105 million barrels per day. The price is expected to rise to this level. That is a frightening scenario and we need to figure out what we will do and try to find cheaper sources. We need to

brainstorm on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 198 – 3(3):
Population Increase of Repulse Bay**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because here in Canada, our territory of Nunavut, and in the community of Repulse Bay, I want to share a piece of news that is joyful and I want to share this with our government, our Premier, and my elected colleagues.

With respect to the survey in 2006-2011, I recognize that the community of Repulse Bay is the fastest growing community within Nunavut. Perhaps in this period from 2006 to 2011, Repulse Bay had a population of 748 in 2006 and five years later, in 2011, it had reached 945 residents. Again, in most surveys, they're usually a few years behind. So perhaps I could state that that is a population growth of 26.3 percent over a period of five years. Again, in this five-year period from 2006 to 2011, they grew by 197 people. So I share that piece of news with the citizens of Repulse Bay, the Government of Nunavut, and the federal government because this assists us.

The one problem we have is that Repulse Bay was supposed to get a new high school, but it was delayed and then taken off the capital projects list. Perhaps the Canadian government and the Nunavut government have not recognized the growth and need for

larger infrastructure in the community. If you look at just the bare statistics, it's the fastest growing community. At the appropriate time, I will ask why they bothered to remove the high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 199 – 3(3):
Kitikmeot Cup - Kugluktuk
Hockey Tournament**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate community members in Kugluktuk, in my constituency, for organizing the hockey tournament, the Kitikmeot Cup, which is happening today and for the next three days. The participants are coming from Kugaaruk, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, and a couple of teams from Kugluktuk. I've got to apologize to the Kugluktuk team; I can't be there to score hat tricks for them.

>>*Laughter*

But in any case, Mr. Speaker, with the facilities that we have throughout our small communities, we appreciate the fact that the facilities are there for sporting events such as this. There's nothing like bringing up the well-being and self-esteem for our youth when it comes to sports. I wish all the participants well. Again, I want to thank the organizers and coaches who put these events together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. It's too bad. I would like to see you score a hat trick. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

**Member's Statement 200 – 3(3):
Appreciation for All the Help
Given to Victims of House Fire**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my constituents, the residents of Iqaluit and indeed, all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, during this week here in our capital of Iqaluit, we experienced some tragic events after a building caught fire, which resulted in quite a number of people becoming homeless. It also showcased the ability and caring of many people as a result during this weekend. I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the multitude of people who provided assistance to the people who have now become homeless.

First of all, I thank the councillors and Mayor Madeleine Redfern especially, as well as the firefighters who undertook the battle and spent all night and day to fight the fire. Further, I wish to acknowledge NAC staff who went above and beyond the call of duty to handle the misplaced students who lost all their belongings and homes.

Further, I want to thank the RCMP that continues to provide assistance, including the social service workers and staff from the health and social services department. They spent extra hours working with those affected. This includes numerous government civil servants, among the NHC staff members.

In particular, I want to express my thanks to the residents of Iqaluit who took it upon themselves to provide assistance as volunteers, simply out of compassion towards the victims of the fire. I sincerely thank each and every resident who provided assistance during this time.

Let us not forget people from other communities and jurisdictions, such as the people of Greenland, who offered their assistance and gathered donations. This includes members of various communities across Nunavut and even our southern fellow citizens who expressed their desire to provide assistance wherever they could.

Many people cooperated to assist these victims and they are far too numerous to mention. On behalf of Iqalumiut, I thank all the people who showed their community spirit, compassion, and sympathy towards these victims.

Additionally, the majority of the now homeless students were accommodated with new units up to the current day. I'm hopeful that they will be able to put this behind them and concentrate on their studies.

Furthermore, I would be remiss without mentioning those who tragically lost relatives. We send our thoughts and prayers to them during their time of grief. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aariak. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved in supporting the students and everyone else. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Member's Statement 201 – 3(3): Meeting of the High Arctic Council

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, members. As all members are aware, I left the House early yesterday to meet with the mayors of the High Arctic as the High Arctic Council. It was an interesting meeting and it was nice to actually meet with my mayors. It's so hard to get everyone together in a room.

One of the main issues that the High Arctic Council has worked on over the past three years is the high cost of transportation within our three communities. Again, this all began in 2008 with the commitment from the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and I think I would like to convey my thanks to Mr. Taptuna and his department for his continued efforts.

The meeting last night began at 6:00. Again, the dedication and commitment by my mayors, after meeting, as I did my Members' Statement on Monday, coming down to have Baffin mayors' meetings and spending the days in meetings, much like we do, to then commit to come last night at six o'clock to get them in a room to talk about similar issues, to me, that speaks to the dedication that I have with the mayors that I actually have in the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. So I'm really pleased with the amount of dedication and the time and effort that the mayors of my three communities put in to taking that extra time to, I guess they could have been packing and getting ready to go home today, actually spend time with me to

share their concerns and issues face to face.

At the same time, there was the dedication of the staff of Mr. Taptuna. Pat Arnakak was there, Art Stewart was there, John Hawkins, and Methusalah Kunuk was there as well. Again, meeting after hours and meeting late into the evening just to continue to work with the mayors to come up with possible solutions to bring down the high costs that we do face in the High Arctic is a testament to the dedication of his department. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank his department for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 202 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Pages from Pond Inlet - Suzanne Killiktee and Kimberly Angnatsiak**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of Pond Inlet, especially my godmother. I rise today to recognize and to share in the triumphant return of two individuals, as today is Friday, and the two pages we have shared this week, Kimberly Angnatsiak and Suzanne Killiktee, are serving as pages for the last time today. I want to express my thanks and I want to share my gratitude.

I believe my colleagues noted that we were served specifically by these pages. There are additional people who have served as pages, those from Iqaluit, so I am very thankful to them. I want to

express my pride and urge them to complete their education to ensure they live their lives properly. We will see you in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 203 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Medical Staff**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you are all aware, sometimes I have difficulty speaking and I apologize for that. We are still experiencing issues. I'll start with a good morning to the residents of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak.

Yesterday, as you noted, I voted on behalf of the constituents and I thank the residents of Taloyoak. I still haven't heard any complaints from a resident of Taloyoak, so I would like to express my thanks. Again, the children see and experience a whole lot. Whenever there's flu, the nurses have to look after all the residents, so I thank them for the provision of services.

The residents of Gjoa Haven didn't complain, but rather, they held a community fundraising event. They were able to pay for the parents' travel to Edmonton. So I'm very proud of the residents for that endeavour. The people of Gjoa Haven gathered with community spirit to assist the mother and father of this child who had to go to Edmonton. They did try to go through the proper channels of the health system because when Inuit aren't approved for particular services, they look to meet that

challenge on their own. So I'm grateful for that.

I want to thank all the nurses, but we have to remember that health professionals aren't gods. We also have to ensure we listen to our body and to see a doctor when we feel ill or sick. We shouldn't wait until the last minute because trying to suffer in stoicism can lead to problems. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. 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 Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 298 – 3(3): Cancellation of New High School for Repulse Bay

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my Member's Statement, Mr. Speaker, the federal government depends on the census to allocate funding every four years. Statistics Canada conducts a census and that data is available.

Based on the latest statistics, the community of Repulse Bay is the fastest growing community and this statistic can assist our government in obtaining more funding as the government depends on the census.

Further, this spring, as my colleague representing Hudson Bay knows, Mr.

Speaker, representatives of the Repulse Bay DEA went to Sanikiluaq to tour the new high school that was constructed for the community. This obviously led to expectations that they would now have a new school in the immediate short term. At that time, I believed and so did the residents of Repulse Bay that when the government tasked them to tour the school by paying for the travel, the representatives could see the facility.

However, we were informed retroactively that the high school would not be constructed in the near term, even though Repulse Bay is growing rather fast and is the fastest growing community in Nunavut.

I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. Do you recognize the census results that are undertaken every four years for Canada's population surveys? Will you be following the data? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. Yes, we know that and we acknowledge and understand the statistics and the growing population of the students. They have already identified and recognized that they need a school. There has to be a study done because of the population growth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

My first supplementary question, (interpretation) I want to thank the Minister of Education for recognizing the data from Statistics Canada. Now that we know she has recognized that growth in Repulse Bay, as she stated, people do know the growth and population and you see the corresponding increase in the number of students. Here we keep stating that education is a priority. So why did the government remove the high school from the capital projects list? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education started the plans on this and did a study along with the Department of Community and Government Services. They went to Repulse Bay in the fall of 2010 to do this study in regard to constructing a school.

First of all, department officials went down to Repulse Bay on September 20, 2010 and the officials went over there again in February 2011. When they started visiting the community, they found out that rather than getting an addition to the school, they need to build a new high school. In order to have the construction occur earlier and in order to save costs, we asked if they wanted to have the same designed school that Sanikiluaq has and they went to view the new school that was constructed in Sanikiluaq.

We regret that we had to cut costs on our expenditures. All the departments had to cut costs. The school plan was taken off the Department of Education's 2012-13

capital plan, but the Department of Education would like to put that plan back for the 2013-14 capital plan.

The Department of Education is now working with the Department of Community and Government Services because everyone is aware that they are running out of space in that school. So therefore, they temporarily added two more classrooms. They will get two temporary classrooms for 2012-13 while they're constructing the new high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Madam Minister. I thank her for that very clear and concise response. She stated that they're working together or cooperating with the DEA in Repulse Bay, but personally, I tend to go through the hamlet. Perhaps the proper term is (interpretation ends) prime public body. (interpretation) As I stated yesterday, I had a teleconference with the mayor and SAO. They were disappointed because they were led to believe that it was being built this coming year and now it has been deferred to 2013-14.

The Premier is well aware that the population is growing. The population growth in Repulse Bay will end up assisting Government of Nunavut revenues. So I would like to see this project returned and it seems obvious that from 2011 to 2015, Repulse Bay may continue to be the fastest growing community in Canada, at least in Statistics Canada's eyes. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do recognize the census statistics and we, too, were rather disappointed that the Department of Education chose to take this project off during our budget cuts and we ended up deferring the project. That was unfortunate, but we have shifted the planning and design phase for 2012-13 because we are quite aware of the need of Repulse Bay to receive a new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) yes, I thank the minister. Sometimes my hearing is a bit hard, perhaps because I'm aging, Mr. Speaker. Did she refer to the date 2012? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the planning, I stated that the plan or, excuse me, what I was trying to say was because it was removed, which I have already spoken to, it has now been reallocated to the 2013-14 capital estimates.

This fall in the year 2012, there will be two portable schools that will be installed in Repulse Bay to alleviate the overcrowding issue they face in the school at this time. While they're undertaking the planning and design for

the new school, that will proceed, but I was referring to two portable schools that will be installed this fall in 2012.

I think we all know and believe that Repulse Bay does require a new high school and the new high school will be constructed in 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 299 – 3(3): Bill C-10 Goes Against Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

I have a question concerning a House of Commons initiative, Bill C-10. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what preparation the department is undertaking for this legislation. We are already expecting and everyone across northern Canada has already stated their concerns about the huge impact it is going to have. The number of people who will be incarcerated will rise and that seems to be the goal of that bill.

Can the Minister of Justice inform this House what work is being done on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very important question. In regard to Bill C-10, I've had many communications with both the federal Minister of Justice and the federal Minister of Public Safety

in Prince Edward Island. We had meetings a few weeks ago. I have also gone in front of the Parliament Senate Committee on Legislation on Bill C-10.

In both cases, I expressed the views of Nunavut on how Bill C-10 will affect us as a territory. That is, with mandatory minimum sentencing, we will incarcerate more people and we need facilities and infrastructure to do that. I also expressed concerns that we are taking away our flexibility in sentencing people. I also expressed our concerns about the funding resources we need to help us with crime prevention, rehabilitation, and support for victims. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response on how they're preparing for this bill. I don't have expectations because we are always supposed to be optimistic about our future. Based on their language, it seems obvious that it will definitely lead to an increase in the number of incarcerations. If you're not from Canada, maybe it's not a worry because it's only for Canada.

While you're making preparations, I would like to ask if Inuit societal values will be increasingly applied so that it will not impact inmates too harshly. After all, Inuit have a long history of dealing with offenders. I'm asking: will Inuit tradition be recognized in the justice system before this bill comes into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for his question and concern. The Department of Justice is always trying to incorporate Inuit societal values and justice in the system as it is. Nunavut judges take that into consideration in the sentencing and procedures that take place right now, and we will continue to do that. That is our view in relating our concerns in regard to Bill C-10, that that flexibility is taken away from our judges and our court system.

Moving forward in the future in any correctional facilities like the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, there are many programs that incorporate Inuit values and culture in the rehabilitation in those types of facilities and we will continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 300 – 3(3): Alternative Energy Source Policy

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Premier. I kind of alluded to it in my Member's Statement, particularly about the rising cost of oil and the impacts on hunters and business. With energy costs and the subsidies required to assist these important sectors of our economy rising, why isn't that a priority of the Nunavut government? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. All of Nunavut is dependent on fuel which pollutes our environment. This is also considered very important by my cabinet colleagues, who can probably highlight the work they have done in exploring ways to lessen our dependence on fuel to generate power.

We have seen various studies done on alternative power generation methods, such as hydro power. They are exploring solar energy, wind, and other non-fuel based power generation methods because we want to lessen our dependence on fuel in the future.

At this time, we can compare ourselves to a person just on the starting blocks. We don't even have hydro power, even though the plans have been developed for one. That is where we find ourselves at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made it quite clear why the government doesn't treat the energy policy as a priority of this government. That's the point of my question. Mr. Speaker, when will the Premier announce that energy as well as energy subsidies or programs are the priority, if any? When will the Premier or her ministers announce a policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a matter of high priority. Due to its importance, we have initiated a pilot project plan in Iqaluit for a future hydro generation plant. There is an intense hydro potential feasibility study being conducted by my executive colleagues as this is of extreme importance. Once the study has been completed and debated, we will have to look at an energy policy, as per the *Ikummatiit* document statements which we have to try and implement, since this is very important to our government and we review this periodically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I brought this question up is because these methods are called conventional energy, such as hydro that you mentioned, and some of these methods will not work in all areas of Nunavut. I believe that this government has to take into consideration other means of power generation, primarily in step with the energy policy, which has to be carefully worded. I wonder when the Premier can announce a new energy policy in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to power generation, particularly now depending on diesel, it's an issue that we're really trying to research to see

what the best methods of power generation we may be able to utilize here in the territory of Nunavut.

We're basically at the initial research stages of exploring alternative energy. In English, we're basically in the research and development phase with respect to power generation. It's becoming clear as we explore these options. However, if you were to look at all the other regions in Canada, Nunavut is the slowest when it comes to alternative energy. We're still one territory entirely dependent on fuel to generate power, but these research studies into power generation are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I understand the comments the Premier just stated, but the residents of Nunavut have to hear about the type of policy that the government is developing. With respect to making government policy more specific on a Nunavut-wide basis, when can we expect to see energy and energy subsidy costs in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is something that is being actively worked on and we will table it once the details are worked out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 301 – 3(3): Need for a New High School in Coral Harbour

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. With respect to the Member for Akulliq's statement about the school in Repulse Bay, I have noticed in the last five-year capital plan that the plan for the new school in Coral Harbour was also deferred to the year 2014. I would like to hear from the minister if that capital project will proceed as planned for 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising that question. The Sakku School, which is for students from kindergarten to grade 12, is apparently in good condition, at least according to the rating expert. It was renovated just a few years ago. However, we have to look at the caveat here, which is the number of students are also rising quite dramatically in that community. It is increasingly obvious that a new school will have to be constructed in the future. The school is currently at 85 percent capacity. When you look at the number of students, it seems we will have to start planning for a new school or make an addition to the existing school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response, but I didn't seem to hear a response to my question. The high school plans and design is supposed to start in 2014. I would like to raise my question again. Is the planning and design still on for 2014? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education, with the help of the Department of Community and Government Services, does assessments of the schools. They will work with the DEA in Coral Harbour and others to start the planning stage in the spring of 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I believe she recalls when I was first elected to the House as a member that it had already been deferred within the five-year capital plan. I do know that we have to defer capital projects and sometimes we don't have alternatives but to defer projects due to fiscal restraints. However, in my estimation, if you keep deferring a project, you start to worry about whether or not the project will be met.

I noted and I have been informed that the school is at 85 percent capacity. I believe that when you look at the classrooms for kindergarten and new classes, you have to start looking at those signs of growth.

You have to ensure that you start the planning and design so that everything is ready prior to the school becoming over capacity.

That's just a comment, Mr. Speaker. I believe I will be seeing the Premier later today. I invite the Premier to come to our community to tour the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. That was just a comment. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 302 – 3(3): Local Housing Associations and the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I have ever raised a question to the Minister of Housing, so I would like to direct my question to him.

Is the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation aware or has he heard about whether or not the recommendations expressed by the former Auditor General, Sheila Fraser, have been implemented? The Auditor General's report is a living document. In one of her recommendations, she stated that there is a distinct lack of communication between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and local housing authorities in the communities. Is the minister aware of this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. Yes, we are aware of all the recommendations that the Auditor General has put in place and most of these have been corrected and some of them are ongoing. I do agree with you that we have lot of issues with our LHOs. They need more support and we're putting things in place, such as inventory, which is a big issue that she had and we've still got that issue. Right now, we have about half of the LHOs that are actually complying with getting the inventories done by the end of March. We're working on the other half and hopefully within the next year, we will have them all complying with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues are all aware as I have discussed this issue with them outside of the sitting, which is the fact that certain communities are treated differently than others. When we are trying to ensure *Tamapta* is our guiding principle, it would be like our spinal cord and if we believe in this mandate, we have to have some backbone.

There are quite a number of people who are still waiting for housing, some of whom have waited for a very long time. At the same time, there are others who get new housing soon after moving in from another community. With respect to this problem of equal treatment, can the minister direct the regional offices to work more cooperatively with the local housing organizations so that they are aware of all the problems they're facing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We are working with the LHOs and I know that is an issue in the allotment committee, where we have noticed that there are certain friends, the friends get housing units, and it depends on who is on the committee. So we know the issue, we're working with it, and we're going to do an audit on all the LHOs to make sure that they're following the rules. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Thank you for clarifying that, Minister Schell. You can tell it is Friday morning. Item 6. Oral Questions. Item 7. Returns to Written Questions. Oh, sorry. Written Questions. It is Friday morning.

>> *Laughter*

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. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

We will take a short 10-minute break before we go into Committee of the Whole with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:02 and
Committee resumed at 10:17*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good morning. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Today we wish to continue with the review of Bill 24 and commence with the review of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, and if time permits, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Finance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree that we deal with the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 –
Community and Government
Services – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Government

Services to make his opening remarks.
Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can start now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole to review the 2012-13 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services. I would first like to state that we appreciate the feedback we received from the standing committee review of the 2012-13 main estimates and business plan and look forward to hearing from you and your colleagues here today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services continues to manage programs and services for local government, government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, project and asset management.

Over the past fiscal year, my department has focused on *Tamapta* priorities. This includes the drafting of the legislative proposal for changes to the *Consumer Protection Act* and the introduction of the *Building Code Act*. Both Acts are to be introduced during this current session. CGS continues to work with the GNWT and NEBS on a plan to introduce legislation to regulate the municipal employees' pension plan.

The Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee (NCIAC) has a balanced government and hamlet membership, and has just recently completed the development of the long-term integrated community sustainability plans, or ICSPs, for each community in Nunavut.

The completion of these plans will ensure that the future planning process takes into account environmental, cultural, social, and economic goals of the communities. In addition, the ICSPs will provide both government departments and agencies and the community itself with a long-term vision for their infrastructure development.

Mr. Chairman, in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and NAMA, CGS is working with municipalities to establish daily procedures to assist municipalities in complying with their water licence requirements. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is assisting the working group to seek federal funding for training municipal operators to improve the management of their water and waste management programs.

We continue to assist municipalities with acquiring insurance coverage at affordable rates by providing ongoing funding of \$850,000 for the municipal insurance program, also referred to as NAMIX. In addition, we will continue to fund up to \$200,000 annually to NAMIX and municipalities to provide ongoing risk management and loss prevention training.

Block funding for mobile equipment implemented two years ago was increased to \$2.5 million last year and will continue at that level this year. Each hamlet now receives \$104,000 annually to fund the purchase of their mobile equipment requirements. It was the support of the standing committee, Executive Council, and regular members that made this increase possible and as a result, all communities have benefited.

During the past year, CGS has conducted a municipal funding review. The review is intended to ensure that hamlets are funded at adequate levels to meet their operational needs and at the same time, ensure that the funding calculation process is more transparent and equitable for all municipalities. A draft of a new funding model is now under review by a committee made up of representatives from NAMA, NAM, and CGS. The working group is scheduled to finalize its review by mid-March. When that is complete, we will bring the review to the FMB and then the legislature.

In fiscal year 2011-12, we were successful in gaining the support of all members of the legislature to increase municipal core funding by \$4 million. This increase was provided to offset the inflationary pressures that our municipalities have experienced since 2006. The municipalities have all expressed appreciation and have been busy putting that new funding to work in increased services to their communities.

As well, CGS continues to invest significant resources in training to ensure that we continue to improve services and programs to our client groups. We continue to offer over 6,500 training days a year to municipal employees through our collaboration with the Municipal Training Organization (MTO).

Our pending budget includes a modest net increase over last year's main estimates. We have increased building maintenance budgets by almost \$6 million in order to better focus our efforts in maintaining government assets and providing client service. This will

not only make our buildings healthier places to work but will also extend the life of the building and reduce the high cost of operations and energy usage in the longer term.

To strengthen the maintenance program, CGS has begun the process of completing condition assessments of all GN assets. We will enter and manage this data in the real estate capital asset priority planning, also referred to as RECAPP, system to track service life and recommendations for life cycle renewal investments.

We continue to improve the GN's procurement process and services and the reporting of this activity. The Office of the Auditor General has recently completed a review of procurement practices within CGS procurement. A report will be presented in the legislature in April.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. The global oil market and currency trends continue to be very unpredictable and we have seen both record high and low fuel prices over the past 18 to 24 months while the Canadian dollar is fluctuating against the US dollar and the Euro. PPD has no control over these commodities, but the department is working to improve their procurement practices and moderate the cost impact to Nunavummiut. We try to capitalize on lower prices whenever they become available through the early purchase of fuel. As a result of these efforts, we were able to reduce the cost of gasoline and diesel to all Nunavummiut for the third time in this government's mandate.

Mr. Chairman, PPD will continue the early purchase program to try and maintain price stability following this year's fuel resupply. PPD monitors the oil and currency markets daily and forecasts indicate fuel prices will again rise as we head into the spring and summer months. While it is important to achieve the best price for fuel, it is equally important to take steps to reduce fuel consumption.

Our department continues to utilize and pursue substantial energy management initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of building designs, lighting and heating systems. We are continuing our work with an energy performance contract for GN building retrofits to improve lighting and HVAC systems for energy performance. This is funded through potential future energy savings calculations. All of these efforts are aimed at reducing our consumption and the costs associated with utilities.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to protection services and Nunavut Emergency Management, the department has been working hard to improve the response programs available to the public for search and rescue. We continue to train community search and rescue organizations, hamlets, and individuals in assisting the RCMP and military in responding to searches.

The number of search and rescue incidents is on the increase in Nunavut. In 2011, there were 163 searches for 281 individuals. In response to these statistics, we are developing an education and messaging campaign with the search and rescue responders to ensure care is taken by Nunavummiut when planning a trip out on the land or

water. We will continue our efforts to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase awareness of the value of being prepared when going out on the land or water.

The incidents of fire in Nunavut are also on the rise. We continue to focus prevention efforts on educating communities and youth. CGS also continues to provide a substantial amount of training and equipment to local fire departments throughout Nunavut.

Our protection services staff facilitated the development of emergency response plans for each community. These plans have now been completed and are in the process of being adopted by communities through their by-laws. This work will go a long way to prepare hamlets for responding to emergency events. The department will now facilitate the development of a territorial emergency response plan to build on the community plans.

Community and Government Services has, over this past fiscal year, advanced the upgrade of the wide area, local area, and municipal area networks, (WAN-LAN-MAN). CGS successfully transitioned to the new network at the end of December 2011. This government's priority *Tamapta* Action Plan will be supported through these and other technology improvements. Improved communications with government is a priority for my department, working with EIA and communities.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the progress that my department is making in fostering

partnerships and collaboration to meet the needs of government departments, communities, and the general needs of Nunavummiut.

I look forward to your questions, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister Kusugak, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. On my left is my Deputy Minister, Kathleen Lausman, and to my right is our Director of Finance for CGS, Ms. Alma Power. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Welcome, Ms. Lausman and Ms. Power. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Please.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to the people of Nunavut and the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget of \$188,127,000 has increased by approximately 2 percent since the introduction of the department's 2011-12 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 344. This is the same number of PYs as in its 2011-12 main estimates.

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

The department's 2012-15 business plan indicates that the department is continuing to review the *Fire Prevention Act*. Members were pleased to note that the department will bring forward amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* during this winter sitting. Members were also pleased to note that the department will bring forward a new *Building Code Act* during this winter sitting as well. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on these legislative initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, the *Northern Employee Benefits Service*

Pension Plan Protection Act was passed during the 2009 fall sitting. Members were pleased to note that the Government of Nunavut listened and acted on the concerns that we raised on the need to protect municipal employees and their pension plans. The standing committee looks forward to further progress on the department's plans to "Work towards updated pension plan legislation to regulate the NEBS pension plan for municipal employees in Nunavut and NWT."

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes an increase in funding allocated under the Municipal Funding Policy, which is used to assist municipalities to deliver programs and services. The department's draft 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of its 2012-13 priorities is to "Develop options and present recommendations for improved municipal funding." The standing committee is also pleased to see that the department will be working to improve municipal funding and looks forward to receiving updates on this important issue.

The department's proposed 2012-13 main estimates include \$2.5 million in funding for the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. This program "Provides annual core funding to assist communities in mobile equipment lifecycle planning, procurement and maintenance." The standing committee is pleased to note that the funding has remained stable since the introduction of this program in the 2010-11 fiscal year and encourages the department to continually review this program to ensure that adequate funding is provided to communities for their mobile equipment needs.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2012-13 main estimates include \$850,000 in funding for the Municipal Insurance Exchange to "offset incremental costs associated with municipal insurance coverage and to implement loss control program initiatives with focus on such critical areas as fire training and fire prevention." The standing committee supports the government's ongoing support of NAMIX until such time as the system can become self-funding and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, on June 2 of 2010, the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled the *Considerations Regarding an Open Market System for Annual Sealift – Summary Report December 2009* in the Legislative Assembly. It was concluded that "a continuation of the RFP process gave the best combination of achieving price and services benefits for Nunavummiut while at the same time offering the opportunity for competitive tendering of service to each region."

On June 9, 2011, the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled the *Dry Cargo Resupply Program – Activity Summary Shipping Year 2010* in the Legislative Assembly. It indicated that an "Alternate Dispute Resolution approach to settling Sealift claims by Nunavummiut against the carriers was implemented during the 2010 season. The Alternate Dispute Resolution will replace litigation for small claims." The standing committee was pleased to see that the final recommendation of the 2005 Review of the Annual Resupply Operations was implemented. The standing committee encourages the

department to work with sealift suppliers to ensure that the best possible service is provided to all communities.

The department's proposed 2012-13 main estimates include \$500,000 in annual funding to provide training to search and rescue organizations and assistance with the purchase of equipment. The standing committee encourages the department to provide clear information to communities on the process by which they can access this funding. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2011-12 annual report, which is required by law to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly under the territorial *Emergency Measures Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2012-15 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its priorities for the Office of the Fire Marshal. It indicates that "The draft Policy and Standard Operating Procedures are currently being reviewed by other GN departments for input and will be finalized in the next fiscal year." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this initiative.

The standing committee notes that the proposed budget for the department's Capital Planning and Technical Services Branch is increasing from \$33,671,000 in 2011-12 to \$33,838,000 in 2012-13. Most of this increase is due to a newly created "Project Management Office" division.

Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2012-15 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its previous priorities, which indicates that "CGS, in consultation with AANDC and

NAMA, continues to work with municipalities to establish procedures to assist municipalities in complying with their water licence requirements” and that “CGS has hired Dalhousie University to conduct long-term studies to better understand the capability of Nunavut’s wastewater facilities and methods which can enhance their effectiveness.”

MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly on the importance of drinking water quality and safety in Nunavut. The standing committee continues to recommend that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive report on water quality in all of Nunavut’s communities. The standing committee also notes that the Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services are currently reviewing waste management options for Nunavut. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this important issue and encourage both departments to continue working with communities to ensure that they are compliant with all territorial and federal legislation regarding waste management in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2012-13 main estimates indicate that the department’s Petroleum Products Revolving Fund will have a deficit of \$10,936,000 in 2012-13. The standing committee encourages the department to closely monitor this issue.

The department’s draft 2012-15 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its previous priorities, which indicates that “All Nunavut tank farms

have undergone a condition assessment; information will be used in the new capital planning process to facilitate a replacement plan for aging infrastructure.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this week during the government’s Budget Address, the Minister of Finance indicated that “The government proposes to transfer the sport and recreation responsibilities of the Department of Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth to the Department of Community and Government Services.” The standing committee was pleased with this announcement and looks forward to receiving updates on this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of Rule 77(1) and Rule 77(2). We now can recite them from memory, having heard them repeatedly for a long time, so let’s just keep them in mind. At this time, I would like to ask if there are any general comments to the opening remarks. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the respect to the opening comments of the Hon. Minister of CGS, I haven’t heard something that troubled my heart and my mind or I didn’t see anything that bothered me. We shouldn’t always be

looking for issues and problems, but we should be looking for something good in representing our constituents.

On page 2 of the minister's opening comments in the English version, the first paragraph talks about the Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee. I like the wording as it applies to economic development and building infrastructure that improves the growth of the community's economy. That is what's in the works. For that, I thank the minister and I imagine we are all thankful.

I just added a bit on the community economy specifically with respect to contracts that are let. Where do these projects come from? It can be the federal government that creates a community project. There are also territorial and provincial projects. There are also the local municipal governments that come up with projects when they get funding for them. However, when an outside contracting company arrives into the community, there really is no benefit. I really believe communities deserve more benefits because the minister feels, along with his deputy minister, that the needs of communities be adequately addressed.

On page 4 of his opening comments in English, the minister mentions the procurement process. When we are contracting using public funds here in Nunavut, the government, through the Department of Community and Government Services, has certain beliefs, as the policy states. I'll read it in English, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) "Spending money locally returns benefits to the jurisdiction because a portion of the dollars spent locally are recycled locally," Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) I totally agree with that particular statement. The communities should be utilized more in future projects so that all the dollars that are left in the community will continue to recycle. I really appreciated that part of his comment.

I would like to ask this question in relation to his opening comments and I'll have no further questions after that. You made a statement about trying to grow communities, irrespective of whether the project is federal, territorial, or municipal, that you have to try to ensure local benefits wherever a contract is let and leave more money in the local communities. If there is a contract where they are constructing a unit, they should be able to utilize local resources like the local truck rentals and hotels so that the money that they're using with the contract will remain in the community. I know that the federal government firmly believes in infrastructure development.

Thank you for that nice little jingle. I'm not sure whose jingle that was, but that's a nice tune.

That is my question, Mr. Chairman, so I'll stop there for the time being. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I enjoyed listening to Mr. Ningark's comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments you just made are very understandable because we do want to see economic development in every hamlet, as per our statement that we have to ensure communities and hamlets will deal with it down the road.

The Nunavut Infrastructure Planning Committee was just created, which looks at the capital projects and pro-rates them as to their development planning. There is weight that is placed on each contract and they have to review what kind of impact it may have in a community. These are the kind of factors they have to look at, so I agree with that statement.

With respect to the contracts that the member referred to, the requests and bonuses are usually a part of the contract and are reviewed. The contracts usually state local content and involvement, including vehicle rental and any number of things because there are so many contracts. We look at the possible impact and benefits to the community where the project is being undertaken. So these kinds of details are usually contained within the contract, along with appended agreements.

I am very happy that Mr. Ningark agrees with our approach, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Just to remind the members again that we have interesting comments to hear with the statements from the members. Please make sure that your cellphones are shut off so that we can pay attention to what's being stated by the members. Thank you. That was just a reminder. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the witnesses who are here to answer questions we may have. We know they have a very difficult job, but again, they're working towards improving our future and that's quite commendable.

I would like to return to the opening comments, specifically on page 6. It states that "The incidents of fire in Nunavut are also on the rise." If we look at the 2010 annual plan, it also states that there were 123 buildings that had burned. So that would be over 40 units per year that are damaged by fire in Nunavut.

Just prior to Christmas up to date and particularly here in Iqaluit, as was in other communities, we have heard about these fire incidents. It's very sorrowful to hear about these events and the people impacted become affected because it's very stressful, but I think that one of the things that we have to look at is fire prevention measures, especially down the road. So I'm wondering if the minister can tell us whether or not they started focusing more on fire prevention measures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fire prevention is a very important issue in Nunavut. We have seen many programs on fire prevention, as well as pamphlets through schools and also in the offices. We see fire prevention posters and we see fire prevention commercials on TV. This program is continuing and we're now reviewing how we can improve it and strengthen the fire prevention program. So we're now looking at how we can enhance the fire prevention program in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for saying that you will be reviewing this. We expect to see the results. You have many staff members, I believe, that are open and we have heard that there is currently no fire marshal here in Iqaluit. Could the minister elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, at this time, we do have a fire marshal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): I imagine the fire marshal was just hired and that's why we haven't heard about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fire marshal has actually been working in Nunavut for quite a while and he used to work in the Rankin Inlet offices. I believe he just moved here to Iqaluit in January of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Just to remind the members that we are on general comments and questions. When we go to the page-by-page review, you will be able to ask more questions in regard to the contents. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we get to the page-by-page review, I will have further questions to ask. At this point, can the minister inform us as to how many vacant positions still exist in his department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Perhaps about 25 percent of the positions are vacant, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): If it is indeed at 25 percent, I imagine there are over 90 positions that are vacant which have to be advertised and filled. Am I correct in estimating the 90 positions? I'll just stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I think you just stated that you finished, Ms. Ell. We will move on. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to make a few general comments. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole, hon. minister and your officials. There are three main items I want to discuss.

The first is in regard to CG&S being very important to the business sector. There are a lot of buildings that require

inspections. When we get to the page-by-page review, I will speak to this in more detail.

As I stated, inspectors are a very important aspect of construction and there is a shortage of them. If you're going to be getting a loan, you need to have your facility inspected to be able to get the funds. That's why, in some cases, the units sit empty for a long time because it requires further inspection, even though drywalls or plumbing, for example, are ready to be installed. Although the units may be roughly made, they still have to be approved by an inspector.

The private sector continually clamours for more inspectors because it holds up a lot of construction and the construction season is short. Again, we definitely need electrical inspectors. When your electrical inspection doesn't pass, you can't make a unit available. There are a lot of factors that are involved in approving them. That is why having more inspectors available is more important. I will provide more detail later on. I just wanted to speak to this issue.

I would like to thank his department, specifically the Emergency Measures Organization, including Ed Zebedee. I noted sometimes that he spends 24 hours or more working on an issue. They go through very stressful and hard work, as per what our colleague from Igloolik spoke about last year. There was an event that occurred in Igloolik where one of the rescuers unfortunately passed away when they were trying to save the hunter and his son.

I want to thank everybody in search and rescue because without them, a lot more of us would be in peril. When people are in boats or inclement weather, they face hardship and it causes difficulties. In this day and age, when we no longer depend on dog teams, a lot more people die. What I did want to mention is that a lot of these search and rescues are too focused on western society's way of conducting search and rescue.

If you hear the story about the Labrador incident, where a young person passed away within 24 hours and nearby, the boy was dearly missed. I believe their MP and Ottawa are conducting an investigation. We really have to change the way it's operated and adapt it to Nunavut because sometimes a blizzard is the reason why search and rescue aircraft don't fly, even though the actual local searchers will still be looking. I will ask more questions on that later.

With the third item, a lot of us have depended on the Auditor General's report and recommendations on what requires improvements. As the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Public Accounts, we will be reviewing that report in April. I just want to mention this part because it impacts the private sector.

With Nunavut's construction season being as short as it is, we have to create an efficient and effective process. I will provide more detail on that as well.

You are also responsible for various pieces of legislation related to the *Financial Administration Act*, as well as the *Contracting Procedures Manual*, which not all departments have. If they were followed properly, we would not

have to run into as many problems that we do.

I would like to also mention that in my constituency, we have some concerns because we have been told that the Petroleum Products Division will be moved to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I think we will be interested to hear how many positions will be moved or whether they would be moved to Baker Lake, where Qulliq has its headquarters.

I'm mentioning these four main areas as general comments and I will provide more questions during the page-by-page review, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I didn't hear a question. Minister Kusugak, would you like to respond? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I don't have much to say, but I do want to say that I am very pleased that we will be talking about these issues once we start the page-by-page review. The only way to resolve issues is to speak about the issues in the House. It will be interesting to hear once we start the page-by-page review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister and his officials. On page 3, the top paragraph, I would like to briefly talk about this issue because the communities have developed more through this block funding. The hamlets can make their own decisions. I just want to state too that this has been very

beneficial to the community and we would like to see the continuation of block funding in the communities. Communities should be given more flexibility. When they're given more flexibility, it benefits more people and it's beneficial to the community, especially the smaller communities. I spoke to this issue previously and I just want to say it again because we have heard from our mayor.

On page 6 in the opening comments in the middle paragraph, it states that there were 163 searches for 281 individuals in 2011. I am very pleased about the fact that you have looked at options on how we can improve this program in searching for people on the land or sea. The government's program in providing SPOT devices has really helped.

I have heard that there is a lack of communication with the communities. If the communities know about the SPOT devices, they don't necessarily have to know how to operate a computer. A harvester can take that SPOT device and be taught how to turn them on. I'm sure that it can be very helpful with SPOT devices. They're not the same as GPS or computers. SPOT devices are easier to handle. They're more user-friendly. I'm sure that the elders who are unilingual Inuit can use those if they can bring them when they go out hunting. That is going to help them out more.

It would help save the lives of many Nunavummiut if they bring their SPOT devices. There have been hunters who have been using SPOT devices and they have saved lives. The communities should be made more aware on how to use SPOT devices because sometimes the hunters go out hunting without

telling anyone. The search and rescue team doesn't even know where to start searching. Sometimes that creates a problem and a long delay before they find an individual.

In our community, when there is a hunter not coming back at a certain time that they're supposed to, we start moving right away and acting on it, especially if there are hunters who don't say where they're going. I am very pleased about that. I just wanted to make a comment on that because it's going to help the communities.

Even though SPOT devices are made available, some communities take a long time to realize that, along with hamlet, and the MLAs need to work together on this issue. This is just a general comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some general comments and I will be asking questions when we get to the page-by-page review. I thank Minister Kusugak and his officials for appearing before the committee.

On page 3, it states here that in the 2011-12 fiscal year, there will be \$4 million for continuing the MTO program, which provides over 6,500 training days a year to municipal employees. This is very interesting to hear because we were mayors at the time when this was initiated. I am very pleased to see that it is fully operational now. The individuals who took that training were not just municipal employees; it has helped to enhance the community. Through that

training, municipal employees have gained more confidence. I am very pleased to see that program continuing and I would like to say how pleased I am with that.

In regard to the issue of building maintenance, perhaps office buildings of municipalities are aging and they are unable to keep up with the Canadian building codes. You talked about the buildings being improved to bring them up to code. The office in my constituency, for example, is around 30 years old. Buildings become drafty. When the units are constructed and designed, they identify the lifespan of a building. I will be asking questions in regard to aging buildings.

I know that your department has other responsibilities, but we don't like to see aging infrastructure being left behind. We would like to see the units or government buildings assessed. I will be asking questions in regard to that when we get to the page-by-page review. I'll conclude with that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. I didn't hear a question. At this time, I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will move on to the page-by-page review. We will start off with page J-4. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,943,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is probably just a comment. Mr. Chairman, is that under training?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ningark, please rephrase your question so that I can get it clarified.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. You or the minister can reply to me. Are we on page J-5 or J-4?

Chairman (interpretation): We're on page J-4.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Yes, I'll ask my question later on. I apologize for being on the wrong page. So therefore, I have no further questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I want to raise a question regarding this division. If you look at CGS for policy and planning, there is no doubt they're implemented. My question is a general question, as per my general comments.

CGS is guided by particular policies, especially when they're dealing with contracts. They're governed by several pieces of legislation, such as the *Financial Administration Act*, as well as the Contracting Procedures Manual. There are also recommendations we have received from the Office of the Auditor General which helped to ameliorate the challenges we face.

Are you putting enough emphasis on the principles of the Contracting Procedures Manual? Are you adhering to the

particular regulations that you have to follow?

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that excellent question. Based on what we know, we have no option but to adhere to the regulations and there is no way around them whatsoever. The contract regulations are all followed as much as possible with respect to contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I really wanted to hear that from the department because sometimes we hear that the Contracting Procedures Manual doesn't seem to be followed properly. The reason why I bring it up is there are two different contracting processes: one specifically deals with procurement in all departments, including the large departments of Health and Education, and then the other one is the Contracting Procedures Manual, which is recognized. Wherever the procurement policy applies, you have to respect its provisions.

A second note is that not everything is the same. There are legal obligations, such as Article 24 of the land claims. Unfortunately, they don't work together seamlessly all that well, so we don't catch everything. Maybe the minister's officials can be more consistent. I hear about the review announced by the Premier. Once again, I think some of us can say that before the review is

completed, we have to ensure that our officials respect existing policies and legal obligations. I don't want to hear that it is only after the review is completed that they will fulfill their legal obligations. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a section in the Department of CGS with specific expertise on contracts. Not all contracts stem from CGS. Whenever a different department requires a contract, whether it's Education or Transportation, they inform our department what they want to contract out, what they want in the contract, and the skills and abilities they require. The contract staff starts looking at the requests for contracts and checks to see that they are adhering to the various policies and legal obligations that they have.

Yes, it's obvious that there are some departments throughout government that are less knowledgeable about our contracting regulations. However, after the Office of the Auditor General conducted an audit where they checked 35 different contracts that were let in prior years, they didn't find any issues. I was pleased to see that. We do have to learn more. It's true that we can have a better understanding of the material, Mr. Chairman. I can tell my colleagues here that despite the review that will take place, we are required to follow the existing policies and regulations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I answered him correctly.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the minister for that because whenever there is a request for proposals, we tend to have a wish list. It can be a short list of requirements and/or other things can be added. Even just having only one requirement could be sufficient. Having two might be better, but adding requirements would not necessarily create an onerous process.

Allow me to ask this question. If there was a factual error found in the department, do they conduct a thorough investigation as to why this particular contract didn't follow the Contracting Procedures Manual? Do you also look at the factors that may lead to non-compliance? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no obligation that cannot be followed. If there were problems and we learn about steps that we should take, if there were any unintentional omission, Mr. Chairman, they are told what steps should be taken. There is no room for disputes when the contracts are being put together because it's very important to the public that there be no disputes arising from spending the public's money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That's very good to hear and I'm glad

that you stated it that way. The reason I want to raise this is that when we are going to put out a tender, CGS has the discretion to sole source because that's one of the options of the deputy minister.

My colleague sitting right next to me will probably recognize that the Municipalities Act was bypassed in some of the contracts. I hope that has been rectified. I don't have the section that speaks to it, but it seems to state that if there are any funds that will be allocated to the hamlet, irrespective of whether it is from the Department Economic Development and Transportation or your department, the minister has to approve it. Will you ensure that that is followed down the line? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the sole sourcing that the member talks about, each government department, including the departments he mentioned, we don't have a say. I can tell the member that where CGS is involved, we ensure that we adhere to the regulations pertaining to sole sourcing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. In Cape Dorset, there were allegations that various contracts were awarded unfairly, which the minister were to have signed and approved, but were done at the hamlet level and have subsequently become court matters. Perhaps they will

adhere more to the legislation since that issue has come to light. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I believe I signed that particular document to move it forward, but we make every effort to honour any obligation that we have to follow. Sometimes, however, even when you're following the correct legal procedures, someone doesn't agree. In those cases, if we need to make corrections, then we do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps the best way is to simply get the hamlet to facilitate the construction because of the short construction season.

I keep referring back to the Auditor General. When you look at these projects, you have to look at the best and most effective use of public funds. When you look at the tender process, this might actually be a problem and that's why the Auditor General assumes that a non-tendered contract would be a lot more effective. Will you be giving more weight to these recommendations and look at trying to create a more effective means of contracting?

The reason is that in Nunavut, we have a lot of businesses that depend on these government contracts and their employees want to be able to have an opportunity to work. That is the reason why I want an answer to this. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Tagak. Your questions are quite clear and it's good to hear the reasoning behind your questions. I was very happy to note, and you may have noted it yourself, that when we talk about a sole source contract, the number of sole source contracts has started to dwindle and it has been dwindling ever since. I am very happy to see that.

As I stated in my comments, the divisions in certain departments handle these contracts that are let by various departments. We have talked with them and supported them in reducing the number of sole source contracts. Again, the departments are also online with limiting the number of source contracts and we are collaborating on this issue to try to make it a more effective process.

Mr. Chairman, hamlets have their own contracting procedures and processes, but our department does also provide assistance to hamlets in that regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully I'm understandable.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. I believe we're on page J-4. Your department's draft 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of the 2012-13 priorities is to "Propose amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act*." It indicates that these amendments will be brought forward during this sitting. Can

the minister indicate what changes they are proposing to the legislation?

I believe, this fall, there was a statement about introducing amendments to legislation at our winter 2012 sitting, but I would like to know if the minister can indicate what changes they're proposing to the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, but I didn't quite get the question. It was not intentional, Ms. Ell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Again, I apologize to you, Mr. Minister. I think we had a slight glitch with the interpreting equipment. Perhaps you can ask your question again, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of the 2012-13 priorities is to "Propose amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act*." It indicates that these amendments will be brought forward during this sitting. What changes to the legislation is the department proposing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. We are proposing to make amendments. I think we all have

received phone calls in regard to our deficit situation. We would like to make some changes to reduce the discretionary authority of debt collectors. For example, if I had a store and you took too long to pay your bills, despite sending you correspondence urging you to settle those bills, I would keep trying to contact you to avoid further action to collect. That would be covered under the *Consumer Protection Act*. Those are some of the changes we would like to see and will review it this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's indicated in the business plan that this will come in two phases. Can you indicate when they will be brought forward and what the two phases mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* will involve the inclusion of harmonized agreements stemming from Nunavut's membership on the Consumer Measures Committee and ensuring consistency of Nunavut's legislation with consumer legislation in other jurisdictions of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, minister. You mentioned that your department is looking into harmonizing with the

federal and other jurisdictions concerning the fees, as you mentioned, by retail stores for financial services. Does this include things like money transfers? What is your department considering? When will you be introducing this to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That portion is still under consideration and construction, Mr. Chairman. We will, at the earliest possible time, be able to bring that forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 164 of the business plan, your department's draft 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of the 2012-13 priorities is to "Develop an infrastructure plan for Nunavut to address the existing deficit in infrastructure." It also indicates that your department will "Develop a long-term financing plan for implementation of the infrastructure plan." I think it says "implementation." In my book, it says "implantation." When do you expect the infrastructure plan and financial plans will be completed and implemented by your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. (interpretation) You noticed something that I wouldn't have noticed. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are doing

a review at this time, working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. In regard to the municipalities, we all know that the infrastructures of municipalities are aging. We are now doing a condition assessment and I'm sure that it's going to take a while. I believe, hopefully by the fall, we will get the results from the condition assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to continue on with the line of questioning that Ms. Ell had brought forward from page 164 in your priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year, specifically in regard to the infrastructure plan. In the Budget Address put forward by Minister Peterson, there was mention of \$6 billion worth of infrastructure that was needed over the next 20 years. When I did the math, it was about \$30 million of infrastructure a year to keep up with our aging infrastructure. Currently, we have approved, in the fall sitting, around \$100 million in infrastructure.

Again, with some of the over-commitments or problems that occurred with the Nunavut Housing Trust, when more funding was provided, the capacity within the department... . At least with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it seemed it was hard to deal with that. What I'm wondering is: would your department be able to handle an increase of \$200 million worth of infrastructure dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to speculate on things like that. It would be good to see, to have that kind of a problem, where we would get that kind of money to deal with infrastructure. I'm sure, with the planning process that we have underway, the review that we did will go a long way in being able to immediately start to look at where the priorities are in spending that kind of dollars. We would need to increase our personnel in our departments. I would just like to say that it would be a nice problem to have, to have that kind of infrastructure dollars available. I'm sure our department would own up to the challenge and deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. It would be nice because I think that leads into my next question. In terms of the \$6 billion figure, is that a wish list of what the communities would need or is that with ongoing... ? Viewing what the communities need in terms of power generators that are failing, schools that need to be repaired, schools that need to be built upon because they are expanding with population, is that based on a true figure or is this more of a wish list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would even go so far as to say that that's a conservative look at the costs. At this point, it may be a wish list, but that's the reality. We do need these kinds of dollars in order to get caught up

in infrastructure in Nunavut. When that's taken out with the help of the community sustainability plans that have been developed, that's really close to the real figures, give or take a million, I think, but that is the sad reality of our infrastructure needs in Nunavut.

We need power plants. The Chairman is talking about the power failures in his community. I think almost all the constituents we have could attest to the same needs. We all need new schools. We all need new health centres. Well, maybe not all of them, but a lot of them. We all need new community halls, hamlet offices, arenas, just the very basic necessities of our communities, Mr. Chairman, and yes, that is very close to the figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Resolute Bay recently had about 10 or 11 hours without power and Grise Fiord as well had some interesting things that happened with their power plant during the spring runoff where water runs through the actual facility. So it is definitely a need, but you have answered my next question because I was going to ask how you actually receive those figures and you mentioned the Nunavut community integrated sustainability plans, which have helped you come up with dollars figures to be able to assess what is needed.

I remember last year in lines of questions that we had and also just from travelling around to my three communities and bumping into different CGS personnel who were in the

communities doing the assessments, but I was wondering if you could give us an update on... .

I'm not sure quite what it's called, but you were travelling or your department was travelling around to all the communities across the territory doing a really comprehensive inventory of what is in the community, I think even down to, at least with the way it was explained to me, the detailed information of what boilers in a certain building and what nozzle they had to have for that so there would be a complete inventory. I was wondering if you could give us an update on the progress of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Elliott. Yes, that work continues and I think it will continue for a while. The plan is to put it all into a database. We are still continuing to enter the information into the RECAPP database that I mentioned in my opening statements. That's ongoing and hopefully that part of it will be completed in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, you had mentioned the database and data entry has been ongoing, but have all communities across the territory been visited and has the inventory been taken? Have all the communities been visited and now it's just a matter of data entry or is it still

ongoing that communities have not been visited? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, all the communities have not quite completed their inventory yet. That's still continuing. We still have a handful. By handful, I really don't know exactly how many, but we're near the end of that. Nonetheless, we are starting the work with the RECAPP process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again getting back to the \$6 billion with the potential of \$3 million a year and the \$2 million shortfall, if this is for needed infrastructure for our basic needs, as the minister had said, I guess it scares me a little bit. What are we going to do and where are we going to find the funding for this? It sounds like sometimes our communities will slowly start to fall apart and maybe needed services won't be there when they need to be there. I'm just wondering: what's the department doing to meet that shortfall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very serious issue. We do need more money. We're talking with the federal government and seeking more money. Our finance minister and my colleagues are constantly trying to access more federal funding. Our Member of Parliament works with us

and is working hard to try to help us find more federal dollars, and we will continue to do that.

We do have gas tax dollars that are going to continue to flow. There are P3 possibilities. We do have a bit of the Building Canada Fund that we can access. It is a struggle. There is no simple solution, but we strive to continue to try to find those solutions and work with the federal government to find some of those solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting back to the human capacity issue within the minister's department, I think, most recently, we've had about \$85 million worth of capital carryover projects. I'm wondering, in terms of keeping up, whether we can get an update today as to how those project dollars are coming along in terms of needed infrastructure in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could ask my deputy to elaborate a bit on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to that question, which is a very big question, we have put together a capital planning process that's really going to allow a lot of pre-planning on projects. We would get a lot

of technical information and we would understand the scope better. That would allow us to deliver projects in a more timely fashion and have a better sense of what the actual costs would be. We're transitioning into that new process now. We expect that over the next couple of years, we will be able to have fewer capital carryovers. We will know exactly when the capital dollars will be used for construction and when they're going to be needed for consultant work. So we expect that whole problem to actually taper off a lot. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. In terms of the *Building Code Act* that's before the House, one of the concerns I have... I think I might have to ask it later when we get onto staffing, but I'm sure that the directorate would have looked into this. I think some of the other members were asking questions around this as well.

When there was construction going on with the Nunavut Housing Trust, there were a lot of houses being built. One of the concerns that was brought to me many times was the idea that construction was being held up by not having either electrical inspectors or a building inspector coming in to approve at different stages. I won't pretend to understand what all those stages are and when it has to be done, but I know, in the way it was explained to me, the concern was that it presented a problem to the contractor to get work done, which actually translated to more money being spent on keeping individuals in the community and housing them or having

staff on and paying people when the work couldn't be finished until the next phase was approved. I'm just wondering whether your department has looked at that in terms of implementing a building code.

Again, I think a building code is something that we need to look at. With wheelchair accessibility and with recent developments in terms of fire codes and whether there should be fire suppression systems and sprinkler systems in buildings, I think it's needed. At the same time, I don't think they want to slow down the process of construction because we have such a short construction period anyway. I'm wondering if your department has looked into that and what resolutions have been made in terms of staffing a position like that or staffing the number of people to go through the building code and follow through on the procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good points, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Chairman, we've had issues in the past and we will again in the future, unfortunately, in dealing with inspections in a timely manner, which was and has been an issue in previous construction seasons.

That was twofold, partly because we were short of staff and partly because of scheduling by the contractors themselves, where we had in place with the contractors to say, for example, "Please let us know a couple of weeks or a month or so before your inspection is required." Many contractors followed

that and more often than not, we would get a call to say, "We finished this portion of it. Could you come and inspect it now?" And in the meantime, the people who specialize in that field, if it's an electrical inspection or a vapour barrier inspection or what else, they may have been at another project at the time.

So we're working with the departments and contractors to deal with that part of it, but it's very important that the inspections do take place because safety is the ultimate goal here and that proper electrical, boiler, and what other inspections take place in a timely manner and that they be done properly so that we are not jeopardizing the health and well-being of Nunavummiut.

When we do work with the building code, it will be not to speed up the whole construction process but to ensure that safety comes first, that the two can marry and go in a timely fashion. We will work to ensure that personnel are in place so that the code is properly adhered to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We will go back to the page we were on. We were on page J-4. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,943,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the clock, (interpretation ends) I would like

to make a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 24 and the main 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. Enook. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. 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 this afternoon at half past one in the Nanuq

Boardroom, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Orders of the Day for March 5:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 25

- Bill 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 34

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. Members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pages who have been here assisting us this week. From Pond Inlet, Suzanne and Kimberly, thank you very much for coming down and I hope you enjoyed yourselves and learned a lot this week. Also, from Iqaluit are Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Amanda and Joe Michael. Thank you very much. I thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, the technicians, the interpreters, and everybody. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend

We will be watching our athletes in Whitehorse commencing this weekend. I wish them all the best of luck this week in Whitehorse.

>>*Applause*

With that, this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 5, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:03*

