



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 38

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Pages 2130 – 2226

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Government House Leader; Minister of
Community and Government Services;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health and Social Services*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation;
Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible
for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

Jeannie Ugyuk

(Nattilik)

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Deputy Clerk

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Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 6, 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 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, everybody. As well, it's still good morning for all of our athletes over in Whitehorse, so I wish them a good rest in the morning and good luck today. Moving in the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 138 – 3(3):
Long-term Service Awards
Ceremony

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to take this opportunity to recognize the continued effort and contributions of our employees who have served long periods of employment within our public service.

Mr. Speaker, long-term service award ceremonies recognizing employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of continuous service with the Government of Nunavut were held this past February 16 for approximately 150 of our teachers and members of the Nunavut Teachers Association.

Mr. Speaker, for this year's awards, I would like to give a special acknowledgement to our 35-year recipient, Meeka Kakudluk, Teacher, Iqaluit.

There were also nine individuals receiving a 30-year service award: Elisapee Jaypoody, Clyde River; Malaya Audlakiak, Iqaluit; Donald E. Clark, Rankin Inlet; Simone Clark, Rankin Inlet; Marvin McKay-Keenan, Arviat; Pasqualina Putulik, Repulse Bay; Joe Taukie, Cape Dorset; Peter P. Aulatjut, Arviat; and Susie Evyagotailak, Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, over the coming months, following April 1, more award ceremonies will take place at selected locations across Nunavut. Over 700 Government of Nunavut employees will be recognized for their long-term service dedication.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging our most important asset: our employees and their long-term

dedication to the GN public service.
Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Congratulations to all of those individuals. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 139 – 3(3): New Licence Plate

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that we have a new made-in-Nunavut licence plate.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite you all to the unveiling of our new licence plate during our break later on this afternoon.

Last August, we held the "Design our Licence Plate" Contest. I thank everyone for their participation in the contest. We had great submissions. Two hundred designs were submitted by 123 people as part of the contest.

Without knowing who the artist was, the selection committee chose four out of the 200 designs. Tat Ma, Natalie Strijak, Jonathan Cruz, and Ron Froese were the four finalists in the "Design Our Licence Plate" Contest, but of course, there can only be one winner. The new licence plate is inspired by a design submitted by Mr. Ron Froese of Iqaluit and he is our contest winner. Mr. Froese will

receive \$1,500 and the other three finalists will receive \$500 in cash each.

I send my appreciation to the people who made this happen. It's a momentous day and I'm happy to share it with you all.

Mr. Speaker, the new licence plate replaces the one we adopted from the Northwest Territories in 1999. We will be making the transition to the new plate over the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, the territory is soon going to turn 13 years old. I recognize that many people feel an attachment to the current polar bear plate, but as you will see, our new licence plate has a distinct Nunavut flavour that will help us cement our distinct identity. I look forward to unveiling the new licence plate for my colleagues during our break. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 140 – 3(3):
Creating a Manual about the Fish
of Nunavut**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hello" to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Mr. Speaker, the development of educational materials that include both science and traditional knowledge is foremost in many of our department-wide projects.

Our Fisheries and Sealing Division has taken on the initiative of developing a

manual about the fish of Nunavut. This book will reflect and build upon the information obtained through our coastal zone resource inventory projects. This will be an addition to the series of Nunavut publications, which include both the terrestrial and marine mammals of Nunavut. These publications will serve as an invaluable resource to educators, researchers, students, and the public.

Our department is building partnerships with our GN counterparts, federal agencies, and local businesses to ensure the successful creation and delivery of this publication. Our department is also committed to incorporating traditional knowledge in educational materials and the *Fish of Nunavut* book will be no exception.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all stakeholders to get involved and contribute towards the development of this text, which will serve as a future documented legacy of aquatic species in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Minister's Statement 141 – 3(3): New Contribution Agreement for Victim Support

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to announce that the federal Department of Justice has committed to provide a sizeable financial contribution for a program entitled "Nunavut Victim

Support." The funding of this program will benefit and assist the Government of Nunavut in its efforts to advance victim services and access to justice for victims of crime in Nunavut.

The total contribution from Justice Canada over the next five fiscal years will amount to \$1,397,761.

>> *Applause*

This contribution will allow the Department of Justice to provide travel assistance to the families of victims of homicide and victims of other serious crimes so that they can travel to court hearings. With this funding, more families of victims will be able to attend court hearings when they take place in a community other than where the crime occurred.

More specifically, \$75,000 is set aside for assistance in travel and accommodations for families and victims travelling to court hearings during the current year, and an additional \$200,000 annually until 2016 is allocated.

These funds will also enable the Department of Justice to develop policies, procedures, and a manual for providing and managing this travel assistance program.

The funds will also be used to hold training and capacity building programs in each region of Nunavut. Community justice members as well as other stakeholders from Nunavut will be invited to participate.

This contribution represents an exciting opportunity for positive change in

Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, we, at the Department of Justice, are pleased to collaborate with our partners at Justice Canada in working towards the healing of victims of serious crime in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 213 – 3(3): Process for Awarding of Fuel Distribution Contracts

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Nattilik. (interpretation ends) I rise today to address the issue of the government's process for awarding fuel distribution contracts. I hope that this is the last time that I have to speak about this issue.

As members will recall, I raised a number of specific concerns in Committee of the Whole yesterday regarding the fuel distribution contract in Taloyoak.

I want to clearly state that I am in support of competitive bidding for these contracts. However, I do believe that the process could be improved. As members are aware, these contracts have significant impact on the local economies of our smaller communities.

The concerns that have been raised during this sitting clearly illustrate how

important it is for the government's process for awarding contracts and evaluating performance to be as transparent as possible.

As we have seen, entire communities can be divided as a result of these contract awards. This is not healthy.

Mr. Speaker, when the government evaluates proposals for fuel distribution contracts, I believe that it is important for the officials to travel to the community in question. Given that these contracts are in place for a number of years, this would be a wise investment of time.

In some cases, proposals may look fine on paper. However, it is important that the government ensure that bidders have the necessary equipment, resources, and infrastructure to successfully fulfill the terms and conditions of the contract.

Mr. Speaker, after contracts have been awarded, it is also important that the government have a clear and transparent process for addressing concerns about the contractor's performance, especially during the probationary period of the contract.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the responsible minister to update the House on this issue during our spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

**Member's Statement 214 – 3(3):
Community Workshop on
Disability**

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly about an event that will take place later this month in Iqaluit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a long-time supporter of the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society and an advocate for the needs of the disabled, I am very pleased that a community workshop on disability will be held on March 28 at the Frobisher Inn.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this workshop is to bring together representatives of all sectors in Nunavut that are concerned with disability issues in order to answer a fundamental question: how can we include people with disabilities fully in Nunavut society?

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the workshop is to create an agenda for action. As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Iqaluit West, I look forward to tabling the results of this workshop during the spring sitting of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 215 – 3(3): 2012
International Co-operative Year**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a good afternoon to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the year of 2012, which is recognized as the International Year of Co-operatives.

Mr. Speaker, many of us were there when the Co-operatives were first raised and we grew up with the Co-ops. It seems obvious that many of us would not be in our situation if we had not been taught about entrepreneurship through the Co-op system.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I also know for a fact that our forefathers were only able to survive by cooperating and collaborating on their shared survival, especially when animals became scarce. They have been able to survive to this day by cooperation.

We also recognize co-operatives as cooperative businesses. Through their growth, they are now able to bid for contracts and to also have their own stores that are controlled by their board members.

Mr. Speaker, in the year of 2012, with this year being the International Year of Co-operatives, I would urge the Co-operatives to work harder as we have heard that the Co-ops are the businesses of individual members. However, a lot of the Co-op sales are not in syllabics and it seems like the actual members who own part of the Co-op are not being served in their language.

Mr. Speaker, during the year 2012, I would urge that the Co-operatives work harder to try to provide services in the language of their members and communities to ensure that they succeed, that the stores make profits, and that they represent the members they serve in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 216 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Douglas Ollie
of Arviat**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good afternoon" to all the people of Arviat. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today to congratulate one of my constituents' achievements.

Douglas Ollie was in the RCMP Summer Student Program both in 2010 and 2011. Douglas is now a successful graduate of the Aboriginal Policing Program in Regina with the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Aboriginal policing preparation is an applied certificate that prepares individuals for employment in the policing at the federal, provincial, territorial, or municipal level, as well as other law enforcement agencies. Graduates gain employment with the RCMP, municipal police, border services, airport and mine security, corrections, casinos, and the military.

Programs he completed are basic investigative techniques, addictions, criminal justice system, history of policing, criminal law, interpersonal communication skills, preparation for police assessment, family violence, suicide intervention, first aid and CPR, introduction to firearms, and aboriginal issues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Douglas, his parents and his family for his accomplishments and wish to him the best success in his career path he has chosen in the policing field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Congratulations, Douglas. As members will know, he was one of our youth parliamentarians here at the Youth Parliament, so it's good to see him moving on to bigger and better things.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 217 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Industrial Arts
Students of Coral Harbour**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the industrial arts students at Sakku School in Coral Harbour for an innovative project that they have recently undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, senior high school students have recently been designing and producing custom pens, such as the one I'm holding. Please see it. These beautiful pens are handmade from bone, caribou antler, and wood.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate dedicated teacher Paul Yanchus for challenging our students to challenge themselves. This project has required vision, persistence, and attention to detail. These are all qualities that will serve the students well in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and staff of Sakku High School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Congratulations. That could be a good signing ceremony pen. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 218 – 3(3):
Quttiktuq Success at the Arctic
Winter Games**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a number of athletes from my constituency of Quttiktuq for their incredible performance at the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, Jordan Levi won a Gold Ulu in the Dene Games junior male snow snake event.

>>Applause

Johnny James Kilabuk won a Silver Ulu in the Dene Games open male snow snake event.

Mr. Speaker, a number of other Quttiktuq athletes competed in Dene Games events and we scored a number of top 10 performances. Mr. Speaker, the

three communities that I represent are extremely proud of our athletes.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Jordan, Levi, and all athletes from Quttiktuq on their tremendous success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Congratulations to those individuals. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 219 – 3(3):
Support to Small Business**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Rankin Inlet. I rise today to speak of the business community here in Nunavut. These businesses are not just businesses; some are joint partnerships. Our businesses are not in a singular sector, especially when we have free enterprise here, and they try to succeed in the free market system.

Due to that reason, I want to speak to what I perceive as the government's usual way of doing things. If we look at the European countries, they talk about their socialist governments, that the government basically decides who will run the businesses and who they will give their contracts to. It seems to me that our government is moving towards this kind of socialist policy.

Let me speak, Mr. Speaker. The Co-operatives are providing a lot of services and benefits to the communities. The retail stores have to be there and the hotels have to be well looked after.

Buildings have to be built and they also have to be rentable. These are all services that the Co-ops can provide.

When we talk about small business, many of them haven't received any type of assistance for over 30 years. At the same time, the federal government has provided over \$50 million to the Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. That averages \$5 million a year. Due to that reason, small business enterprises cannot compete with ACL. They do have a role and they have to be assisted. It doesn't seem to be coincidence that fuel contracts, which are \$165 million annually, are almost all held by the Co-operatives.

We have to make consideration to ensure there is a role for small businesses as well as co-ops. As MLAs, let us be respectful of all of them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark from Akulliq.

**Member's Statement 220 – 3(3):
Support for Local Co-ops**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree with the statement made by my colleague from Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley. However, many of us in Nunavut have become able to stand on our own two feet thanks to co-ops, at least for me personally. In the smaller communities, co-ops provide the largest number of jobs and they have trained many people.

Sometimes we want to see the big picture. In Canada, if we look at Toyota,

the federal government has provided it with subsidies. Ford, another large car maker, was also provided a subsidy, and that includes Pratt & Whitney. Why were all these subsidies going to these larger companies? I imagine it's because they employ a lot of people.

I would like to reiterate that many people in Nunavut have been trained and employed and are now able to be drivers, managers, and also work for the Nunavut government. If they had tried to develop their own skills, they would fail. The Co-ops provide a lot of services and benefits to smaller communities through stores, hotels, and contracts and recycle their earnings in the local economy. I would like to recognize these co-operatives as being a very important part of our economy in Nunavut.

I also recognize free enterprise. I agree with my colleague, but in some way, I don't agree with the whole definition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member from South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Member's Statement 221 – 3(3): EU
Liquor Ban**

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in this public House filled with the spirit of righteousness.

Mr. Speaker, it is wry and extreme that Greece is oozing their financial wealth into the water closet. The French, Italians, and Spaniards are whining and not dining. The Dutch are knocking on their heinies and need a stout helping hand to keep their heads above water.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this House should congratulate itself for a job well done. Our EU liquor product ban has succeeded. This was not just a sought to gain exposure; it has brought a whole continent to its knees.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time, gentlemen and ladies, to give this matter a sober second thought.

>>Applause

We can assist our Commonwealth partners in Europe while we take care and recover their fiscal decency.

Mr. Speaker, it would be Brummie indeed if Great Britain were to sink under the waves down into the dank, dark depths of tank No. 10. Cheers, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we have reached the bottom of the barrel.

If a member were to introduce a motion to assist our assistant Commonwealth countries and to rescind the motion with respect to the moratorium on the purchase of EU liquor by the Nunavut Liquor Commission, I would certainly support this motion.

Mr. Speaker, with the Department of Environment currently developing a European community strategy with the possibility of European tours during 2012, where the sealing matter is sure to arise, I believe it is important to remove barriers to business and to realizing our objective in the European theatre.

By rescinding the motion and therefore removing a potential retort to our actions by European leaders and officials, we will be able to maximize our impact

while minimizing opposition to our trade deals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. I think that is a testament to Nunavummiut willingness to help those who need help. 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. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of individuals in the Gallery.

First of all, I would like to recognize Noah Papatsie, (interpretation ends) who is currently the secretary treasurer for NDMS, the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society, and has been for the last two years. Before that, he worked for IBC and began as a puppeteer and worked his way up to an executive director of the show. Over the last few years, Noah has been trying to be independent with the help of CNIB. He is hoping to be able to get his Seeing Eye dog later this year.

Wendy Ireland is from my constituency. She is currently the director of NDMS and has been there since October 2011. She first came to Iqaluit in 2006 while delivering a workshop for two recreational leaders on how to better include children with disabilities into their programs. She has been doing this advocacy work for the rights of people with disabilities in a professional

capacity for 15 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ell. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on to Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 314 – 3(3): Dealing with Rabies across Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of Environment, James Arreak.

Mr. Speaker, the threat of rabies is one which is faced by many of our northern communities on a regular basis. Recently rabid wolves have been near the community of Baker Lake and it is of great concern to community members. The local RCMP is not always ready to deal with this threat and wildlife officers are not always available in time as well.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps should be taken when there is a threat from rabid wildlife in a community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Aupaluktuq, my colleague, for raising that question. When dealing with rabid animals, I believe there are different terms used. If any person sees

any animal acting that way, they have to immediately take action, especially if they're close to a community.

You have to ensure you are not touched by it or get too close. Wildlife officers should be notified as well as by-law officers who are trained to handle rabid animals or even dog catchers. If a rabid animal is killed, one must avoid touching it with exposed skin and rubber gloves should be worn. They have to be beheaded and given to the wildlife officer to be sent out. If you see any kind of animal that appears rabid, you have to contact people trained to deal with rabid cases right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that we will be able to inform the public as well as communities as to what steps should be done in order to avoid contact.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the danger posed by the threat of a rabid animal. Approximately a year and a half ago, a rabid wolf threatened our home. Our small Jack Russell terrier, Buddy, gave his life to protect the family.

Can the minister update this House on what measures are in place to prevent the threat of rabid animals to our communities and risking the lives of our children and pets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for relaying his personal experiences. As I spoke to earlier, any animal that is exhibiting unnatural behaviour should be killed right away.

If a person were inadvertently bit or had contact with an animal, they have to immediately go to the nursing station, whether they were bit or touched the saliva with their skin, especially if they have any small cut or wound on their hand, because they could be infected with rabies. They have to go to the health centre immediately. We don't have an actual strategy to stop it from coming to the community. Every resident of the community should do their part to try and keep these animals away.

So our preference is that these animals be killed immediately. If there were animals that were spotted, whether they're wolves that were in Baker Lake, then they ought to track down all of those wolves. I believe one of the wolves was getting too close to a home and ended up killing a dog. People should immediately try to ensure that they kill these animals. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so happy that the Minister of Environment has replied. We adopted our dog, Buddy, in Ontario and brought him to Baker Lake. We were very happy to have that pet and he was a very good part of our family. We regret that we lost Buddy.

It's good to hear what the protocol is when we talk about rabid animals. I would like to ask about the next step and whether or not the department will be providing vaccines for dogs. What is the status of that? Perhaps they could announce in the House about their vaccination program for all dogs. I asked the minister about vaccination for dogs and programs to deal with rabies within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to vaccination for wildlife, I'm unable to give a response at this time on behalf of the Department of Environment. I can look into it and provide an answer later. I can say that it might not be a part of our mandate, but we can look into it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 315 – 3(3): Letter from the Local Justice Committee of Gjoa Haven

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Justice Committee of Gjoa Haven posted a petition asking how many people supported having a shelter for the community. The petition collected 289 signatures and the Mayor of Gjoa Haven sent the petition to the Minister of

Justice on November 3, 2011. In February of 2012, the Minister of Justice provided a copy of the letter and petition to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Can the minister confirm whether or not he has received the letter and petition from the Justice Committee of Gjoa Haven requesting a shelter for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, I have read a lot of materials, letters, binders, briefing notes, and a couple truck loads of other stuff over the last three months to catch up. I do believe I received a copy of the petition through my colleague, the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the minister received the letter and petition. (interpretation ends) As the minister will be aware from my previous comments in this House, I believe strongly in the need to do more to address the issue of family violence in our communities. Can the minister update this House on how many communities currently have safe shelters and what support his department provides those communities who have expressed the need for infrastructure such as shelter facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. My memory is not the greatest these days, but I believe there are six shelters in Nunavut. I think three are operational and work is being done to talk to the operators of the other shelters in Nunavut to see if we can get them operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) Last week, this House passed the proposed 2012-13 budget for the Department of Health and Social Services and I noted that the amount of funding for family violence services will not be increased. Can the minister clarify whether the services provided under this program meet the demand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Ms. Ugyuk knows very well, there are tremendous demands in Nunavut for all kinds of programs and services. I don't pretend to say that we will meet all the funding demands. So I can't say with any degree of certainty that this meets the demand for family violence or shelters or safe homes in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His response is understandable and I thank him for his answer. (interpretation ends) I recognize that establishing a community shelter for victims of abuse requires a collaborative effort from different government departments as well as other community-based entities. Will the minister commit to directing his officials to provide assistance and support to the community of Gjoa Haven to establish a safe shelter for victims of abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank Ms. Ugyuk for her question and I appreciate her concern for her constituents in Gjoa Haven. It's a very nice town. I have visited there many times. I have a lot of good friends there.

Mr. Speaker, I can't commit to that, but I will assure Ms. Ugyuk that we will review the petition and the concerns from the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 316 – 3(3): Offshore Drilling in the Canadian Arctic

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow

Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment.

In December of 2011, the National Energy Board issued a major report on the issue of offshore drilling in the Canadian Arctic. The NEB held consultations across the north, including my community of Pond Inlet.

It's my understanding that the Government of Nunavut has a representative on a committee that tries to protect the Arctic. I would like to ask the minister to describe what work this body is currently undertaking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to my colleague because I'm not exactly sure what he is asking about. Can he rephrase his question, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook, could you please rephrase your question. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to clarify that. Perhaps if I ask the question in English, the minister will understand it better.

(interpretation ends) It is my understanding that the GN has a representative on the Arctic Regional Advisory Council on Oil Spill Response. Can the minister describe what work this body is currently undertaking? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying his question. My officials at the Department of Environment haven't completed their briefing notes, so I don't have that information with me. I will have to take his question as notice and I apologize that I'm unable to answer at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 317 – 3(3): Investigations under the Fire Prevention Act

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services, (interpretation ends) the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I asked questions to the minister last week concerning what authority the fire marshal has with respect to privately owned buildings and what inspections are routinely made. The minister took my questions as notice and I look forward to his response.

My new questions concern the investigations of fires under the *Fire Prevention Act*. Can the minister indicate how many investigations were undertaken in 2011? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I currently don't have the information on the number of fires that were investigated. Every fire is investigated, I believe, by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that, minister. Section 5.4 of the *Fire Prevention Act* provides that "An Assistant Fire Marshal shall, within a reasonable time after completing an investigation under subsection (1), provide the Fire Marshal with a written report of the results of the investigation." Can the minister provide details on the 2011 investigations that were conducted following fires that occurred here in Iqaluit and will he commit to tabling the 2011 investigation reports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the reports are available and ready, then we will make them available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will await the reports' availability so that I can read them.

Section 8 of the *Fire Prevention Act* provides that “The Fire Marshal, an Assistant Fire Marshal or any person designated by the Fire Marshal with the approval of the Minister may conduct an inquiry into the cause, origin and circumstances of any fire that caused an injury or fatality or destroyed or damaged property.” Can the minister indicate how many inquiries were conducted in 2011 in Iqaluit and what were the results of these inquiries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the report that Ms. Ell is asking about includes the kind of information she is requesting, we will provide it when it’s available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 318 – 3(3): Implementation of Territorial Power Rates

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Energy.

On February 21, the minister informed the House that phase 2 of the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s general rate application had been approved. Originally, QEC applied to have the new rates take effect on April 1 of this year, as per the minister’s mandate. However, the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s proposal to delay the move towards

territorial rates will be delayed until April 1, 2014.

Before making its decision, the government was required to consider the recommendations of the Utility Rates Review Council. Can the minister tell the House what the recommendation of the URRC actually was on this issue? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley, could I ask you if you could clarify if your question was for the Minister of Energy, who is Minister Taptuna, or the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I stated clearly that I was directing my question to the Minister of Energy. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would rather defer the question to the minister responsible for the issue and question at hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Utility Rates Review Council has quite a bit of responsibility. There were 18 recommendations, of which 13 have to be responded to prior to them undertaking their other utility rate review. There are quite a number of recommendations. It would take a bit of time to speak to URRC’s

recommendations to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your assistance. This is for the Minister responsible for QEC as well. Can the minister clearly explain why the recommendation of the independent Utility Rates Review Council was rejected by the government? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that issue for the benefit of the people who will be paying these electrical bills. When we conducted that review, we didn't have to present any concerns on the recommendations of the URRC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is also for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The current Legislative Assembly took office in the fall of 2008. A new government will be in place after the general election on April 1, 2014. Can the minister explain how the current government considers it appropriate to allow the next government to inherit this decision? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally these things continue to move forward even when we change government. It was our opinion that the impact would be too great. Although we agreed with the majority of the recommendations, we decided to phase in the increases in electrical rates to reduce their negative effects. That is the way it stands now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is on an issue that concerns me. How can this government make it binding for the new government to implement the general rate application policy to a government that doesn't exist nor has a mandate for it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had to make a decision on how to implement the recommendations this fiscal year, especially if there's going to be an increase in utility rates. If we hadn't postponed the increase and put them into effect immediately, then Nunavummiut would be greatly impacted. Last year, we had already increased the utility rates by 18 percent for businesses and private homeowners.

We do agree with the recommendation that we have to change the utility rates that the Qulliq Energy Corporation charges its customers, but if the rates were increased right away, many customers would find it harder to keep up and they would be overwhelmed by bills. Even those who are working would have to reduce their consumption. So in the coming years, we have to make preparations to reduce consumption or to change the way we pay our rising bills. We will also look at subsidies that the government provides in the coming years.

We will be reviewing all of these issues and that's why we made the decision to defer this matter. As a government, we had to make a decision because the next government coming in 2014 will have to deliberate on postponing it again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 319 – 3(3): Protection of Paleontological Sites on Axel Heiberg Island

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment, the Hon. James Arreak.

I have heard a number of concerns from my constituents in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord concerning the issue of cruise ship visits to the fossil sites on Axel Heiberg Island and the lack of monitoring and enforcement by the Nunavut government during these visits.

Can the minister indicate how his department is working to ensure the protection of the Axel Heiberg Island fossil sites from tourist visits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank our colleague representing the High Arctic. With respect to the Axel Heiberg sites, I believe it's called an ancient forest area and it's being made into a national park. Apparently tourists were starting to take out samples of the ancient forests and leaves as souvenirs to take home. It is being made into a park so that it can be put under protection. That's what we're planning on doing up to this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that a consulting firm completed a final report titled "Fossil Sites on Axel Heiberg Island and Ellesmere Island Background Study" for the minister's department. Can the minister provide details on the results of this report and will he commit to tabling it in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The study has been completed and, yes, I can commit to provide the details of the results of

this report in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of any mineral development or exploration projects currently being conducted near the Axel Heiberg fossil sites? If so, what role does his department have concerning these projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): With respect to possible development in that area, whether it's mining or petroleum, we're not aware of any. There is none at the moment. We had a study done because we really want to protect that site. It's a subject of interest for many publishers worldwide. At this point in time, we will be looking to try to ensure it has protection status prior to allowing petroleum developers in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update on the department's plan to establish, and he had mentioned the name, Napaaqtulik on Axel Heiberg Island into a territorial park? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott. The Nunavut government is able to deal with the fossil sites on Axel Heiberg. Those fossils are petrified and they're vulnerable to burning. They're approximately 40 million years old and are of great importance internationally. We're currently working on a study of the area which was completed in December. Once we have the details of the final report, we will table them in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. My good friend from Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 320 – 3(3): Single Entrance Only Housing in Compliance with Code

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister of Nunavut Housing. I know the hon. minister recognizes and supports healthy, secured, independent, and dignified lifestyles through working with our community to assure the role of providing housing to Nunavummiut.

Several of my constituents have brought their concerns to me about certain types of housing units having only a single entrance door. That is a safety concern. My question to the hon. minister is: are these units, triplexes, with a single entrance door in compliance with building code requirements? 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 appreciate the member's comment. Yes, they are in compliance with the code. That doesn't mean that we can't change the safety of these houses. We are looking at some of the older houses, even though they are built to code, and of course, we are looking at a new code here also. They were definitely built according to code, but it is a safety issue, which we know.

In some communities, what we're doing is we're changing some of the windows that are on the opposite end of the units so they can be used as a means of exiting the house. We are looking at ways eventually of either replacing these units or looking at alternate ways of fixing them up in order to put the second escape door. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's sensitivity to the concern. Many of the people in my riding who are the tenants in these units with a single entrance door have a concern. Rules are made in Ottawa where the environments are different. Rules are also broken in Ottawa in this area.

Will the minister seriously look at alternative ways to have safety requirements in units with single entrance doors, perhaps enlarging the windows and putting in extra doors, so that our tenants in Nunavut under public housing will have the confidence of living in these units? 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 appreciate the question. We are looking at all safety issues in units. We are also looking at units that are actually built to code but, like you say, have safety concerns, especially now with the fires we've had here lately. So we're taking it very seriously and we're doing an inventory of all the units in all the communities. As money becomes available, we are going to be renovating these units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister. How soon will the hon. minister report to this House about his findings in the area of safety in public housing units? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member for the question. I can't give you a definite time, but I can definitely tell you that this is a serious issue we're looking at. Hopefully, within the next fiscal year, we will be able to get an answer for you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 321 – 3(3): Investigation under the Environmental Protection Act

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

Mr. Speaker, during our fall sitting, I asked a written question on the enforcement of the *Environmental Protection Act* to the minister at the time. The return to my written question indicated that there were no charges laid between April 1, 1999 and October 31, 2011 under this legislation.

Can the minister tell me how many investigations there have been under the *Environmental Protection Act* to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are about 115 researchers who take part in studies in Nunavut annually. Perhaps I'm speaking to another matter. Excuse me. There are about 115 researchers who taking part in studies annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response to indicate how many investigations there have been in regard to environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask, in the department's 2009-2010 business plan, it indicated that "A lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*." As of today, how many communities are not in compliance with this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague, Mr. Aupaluktuq, for asking that question. Twenty-five communities of Nunavut are not in compliance with these regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask: can the minister update the House on how his department is working with the Department of CGS on the government's Waste Management Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for speaking about the environment we hold precious. We collaborate with the Department of CGS as we work on these waste management strategies and we're always looking at ways to improve waste, water and

sewage systems. We work closely with the Department of CGS and keep each other informed to ensure regulations are complied with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response regarding the 115 researchers looking at the 25 communities. I look forward to hearing from him and I will be submitting written questions if they will keep me updated. I will ask more questions once I receive more information. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be able to do that, although I didn't hear a question. I spoke about 115 investigations that are taken each year. They include these types of fuel spills and their effects on the environment. The investigations also look at whether anyone is legally liable for the incidents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 322 – 3(3): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

In Committee of the Whole on February 29, I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services about objective 2.6 of the action plan for the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy, which promised Nunavummiut culturally appropriate grief counselling resources for communities in April of this year. Health and Social Services is clearly identified as the lead partner on this objective. The minister's response was that he had asked a number of questions and will keep his officials working on this.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: will the department meet its commitment to release culturally appropriate grief counselling resources next month, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question since it's just a yes or no or maybe or possibly. Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that we would be able to meet those timelines. As I said somewhere along the way last week, there are eight commitments on how many actions and tasks, all the timelines, and we have our people working very hard, diligently trying to meet these timelines.

We recognize that suicide is a very serious issue in Nunavut. The strategy was tabled in October 2010 and the action plan was tabled in the last sitting. We have an implementation committee, four partners, and everybody has a role to play. So I'm confident that everybody is working very hard to try to meet the

timelines, but if they don't, I assure the member that they will continue to work towards meeting the timelines as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response because it actually leads into my next question. In terms of the action plan released by the government last October, it commits the GN to deliver a number of commitments according to a very clearly stated timeline. With what the minister has said, it sounds like the possibility of meeting some of those timelines is not appropriate. I'm wondering: is it time to go back to the drawing board and come up with more adequate timelines so that they will be met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I detect a little bit of concern in Mr. Elliott's question.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy and action plan are very serious documents to us. We didn't want a strategy that would sit on the shelf and gather dust. That's why there's an action plan, that's why there are four partners, and that's why there's an implementation committee with all the partners and many people who work within those partners. Like I said, they're working diligently to try and meet the timelines. Some timelines are met and

some are not, but it's not to say that they're not working hard towards trying to achieve the timelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister's department have the needed resources and adequate staffing to meet the commitments made in the action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott again for that question. Mr. Speaker, my officials have not indicated to me that they require additional resources at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister confident that his department's Mental Health and Addictions Division has the capacity required to meet the department's commitments in the action plan for the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in an answer to another MLA earlier, we could always use more resources. We're living in very fiscally challenged times.

I require some more time to meet with my officials to talk about all the work that has to be done in the Department of Health and Social Services: many reviews of legislation, implementation of action plans, and development of other strategies. So we have a lot of work to do and I'm going to need a bit more time to talk to my officials about exactly how much time we have to devote to everything and if we do require any additional financial or human resources to carry out all the important work and initiatives that we have to undertake in the coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 323 – 3(3): GRA Phase 2

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct another question to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation as my previous questions were too short.

We're anticipating price increases for oil over these two upcoming years and beyond. Can the minister look into the past agreement and reverse the phase 2 QEC General Rate Application? If he doesn't want to do that reversal, can he explain why he doesn't want to do so? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising that issue. I don't know for a fact whether or not the price

of oil will increase in Nunavut over the next two years. Although you maintain that it's going to increase, I cannot forecast that.

What I do know is that since we were first elected into this House, the price of oil and fuel has been dropping and it has remained low. The prices have been cut three times from the time we formed the government, despite increases in past governments. However, I cannot forecast that the price of oil will skyrocket or that it would decrease. I have no expertise in this area and I don't wish to speculate on the future.

With respect to the URRC's work and recommendations, we agree with them fully. Their review was quite large in scope. They relied on solid groundwork in their rate review. That being the case, the government made the decision to postpone the utility rate increases to 2014. In the meantime, we will continue to review their recommendations as to how to implement their decisions. This also applies to the subsidies that the government provides to customers in the form of electrical and fuel subsidies. We need to determine if we will revise them before 2014.

We will be including all of these issues and that is why, at this point, we don't want to completely deny these recommendations, but we want to move forward to implement them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand the reasoning behind that. However, the

reason why I brought this up is that the government or we, members, don't have any mandate to pass this on. The decision to defer it to 2014 is not possible. That decision to defer is passing it on to the next government, which will not be empowered to act until after the next election.

It is quite obvious that in Rankin Inlet, the rates will definitely increase when they equalize the rates. This increase will also occur in Iqaluit if the phase 2 rate increase is implemented on April 1, 2014. Wouldn't it be much better if you rescinded that recommendation for a rate review as it stands?

When candidates are running for office, they may use this as a platform, although other members may approve of that rate increase on April 1, 2014 and the government seems intent on making this happen. I believe it would be much better if the phase 2 rate increase was scrapped and have it become an election issue. Perhaps you will be the only member voting for that rate increase at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): The member is prone to baseless accusations. I will not be the only member urging for a utility rate increase. You should know that. I'm not recommending a rate increase. Mr. Speaker, when a member has not said anything to that effect, it is really tiresome for Mr. Curley to be putting words into our mouths every time he sits down. This is getting tedious.

When he says that I would be the only member recommending a rate increase in the future, it is false. He is wrong. I'm not even saying that. We haven't even come close to reaching that day and he is already insinuating that I would vote in that manner. I don't appreciate his speculative remarks in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

What I can state is this: the previous governments when Nunavut was first created

An Hon. Member: A point of order.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Curley wishes to raise a point of order.

Point of Order

Mr. Curley: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm called, in my language, a liar and telling false statements. I made my statement on the basis of the fact that the recommendation does include that some communities will actually increase rates. That is part of that. This is a fact. I'm not making up words. To be called a liar is not acceptable and I ask the member to withdraw that remark. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the point of order. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley stood up and said that I will be the only person, when the government sits in 2014, approving the increase of rates. He said that I will be the only one who will say that. Mr. Speaker, I cannot predict 2014. So that's not true. I may vote it down. I may vote against it. We're not at 2014 yet, Mr. Speaker, and he said that I will be the

only one voting in favour of it. That's a lie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Members. Sorry for the delay. As members will note, a similar point of order was raised in the past over an exchange between members. I think I had indicated at that time it was an interpretation or a matter of debate and so it would not be a point of order. I ruled that there was no point of order there.

However, the minister, in his response to the point of order, indicated that that was a lie. That is unparliamentary language and I would ask that the minister withdraw those comments. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, thank you, but those allegations are not true. They're not real. If I have to withdraw the statement that it's a lie, where do I have it on record that those allegations are not true? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. As I had indicated, saying that that is a lie or saying a member is lying is unparliamentary; it's a wrong use of words. I would ask that you withdraw your comments saying that that's a lie. It's just a wrong use of words. Is that what you are indicating? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I want it very clear in the record that if Mr. Curley is going to make these allegations on me and they're not true that that has to be in the record somewhere. If I have to remove the word "lie" and change it to meaning "not true," then so be it, Mr. Speaker. I need

your direction on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Minister Kusugak, as I had indicated, I believe, in a previous ruling on a point of order, it was a matter of debate and the member felt that the comments made by the other member were incorrect and I did not agree with them. That's fine, but you cannot use the word "lie" in the House. I believe if you have indicated that you would withdraw your comments referring to the word "lie." Is that correct? Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, I withdraw them and, if I can, I would like to ensure that...

Speaker: Thank you for clarifying that. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. To my question, Mr. Speaker, I'm continuing with my question.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, sorry. The matter is settled and we will move on to your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the record will show also that I wasn't talking about a vote about the issue, I was talking about the support of the policy during the campaign, that it would be difficult to support a policy that says rate increases will be passed on to 2014, from this cabinet to 2014. So that was very clear.

My point, Mr. Speaker, is that it is really quite important that the rate adjustments for 2014 be the sole responsibility of the new Assembly. Will the minister

reconsider once again the decision and the vote he has actually taken to pass on the increases and delay them for 2014? Why not reject them now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has chosen to delay the rate increases until 2014. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we support the public and private homeowners and businesses in Nunavut. By delaying the increase, we will be able to work out the different programs out there and it will have less impact on Nunavummiut who have power bills to pay. They've already had a very big increase and this is to support the public sector out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the minister alluded to a number of program reviews that he indicated are taking place, of which I understand it to be that there will be incentives as well as conservation, I believe, for heating costs and everything else, as well as the electricity subsidies. Who will actually be leading these reviews with respect to electricity subsidies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Different departments of the government will be working with the

Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Members will note that the clock has indicated that the allotted time for question period has expired. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions*

Return to Written Question 011 – 3(3): Government Expenditures on Overtime Pay for Indeterminate, Term and Casual Employees

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide the response to Written Question 11 – 3(3) asked by Mr. Elliott on the subject of expenditures on overtime pay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. According to our Rules, the response shall be printed in the *Hansard*.

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. Madam Premier.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 11 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 169 – 3(3): Annual Report for the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy for the Period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011****Tabled Document 170 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Response to the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner**

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

First, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Annual Report for the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy for the period of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

The other one to table, I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Response to the 2010-11 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 171 – 3(3): Analysis of Suicide Deaths and Hospitalizations Due to Suicide Attempt for Residents of Niagara

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's Statement yesterday, I will be tabling a number of items this week concerning the kind of work that needs to be done to effectively implement our territory's suicide prevention action plan.

The item that I am tabling today is a publication from the Niagara District Health Council. It provides an analysis of suicide deaths and hospitalizations due to suicide attempts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. 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.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 22 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, I believe we have an invitation from the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to participate in the foyer for the unveiling of the licence plate. We shall do that. We will take a 30-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:18 and
Committee resumed at 15:52*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, I would like to thank Minister

Taptuna for presenting us with the new Nunavut licence plate.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with today: Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 24 and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, if time permits, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Department of Justice, and Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. At this time, are we in agreement that we continue with yesterday's review of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Yesterday, Minister Taptuna made his opening comments and the chair of the standing committee, Mr. Rumbolt, also made his opening comments. Minister Taptuna, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Taptuna, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Tanya Winmill, Director of Finance and Administration. On my left is Deputy Minister Bob Long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome. Are there any general comments to the minister's opening comments of yesterday? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) This is going to be a general comment. I believe I have 10 minutes for general comments. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley, that's correct. If you would like to proceed, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): We're usually told how long we have to speak and my comments will be general in nature. I thank the minister for taking the time to attend, along with his officials.

I'm aware that this department is quite important to residents and to communities throughout Nunavut that work on economic development

initiatives, business support, and businesses respect the Department of ED&T. I also urge the minister to continue. During your tenure as the minister of this portfolio, the department has made quite a bit of progress and improvements are continuing. I want to state that your department is an important one for many communities and many programs, particularly your poverty reduction and food security programs that you often talk about. Many Nunavutmiut look forward to them and I want the minister to understand that I am in full support for these initiatives.

I would now like to touch on air transportation, an issue that is mentioned in your opening comments. Air transportation is our primary mode of transportation and is responsible for a lot of attention because of its high cost, which continues to increase. Our fellow Nunavutmiut deserve our sympathy in their struggle to pay for air travel. Sometimes it is the only way to transport emergencies. I am very grateful to those organizations that provide assistance in those cases, not just the Department of ED&T. Sometimes bereavement travel can be paid for by the RIAs, while other communities fundraise to try and pay for emergency travel for relatives. Although Nunavut doesn't have a large population, we tirelessly endeavour to meet these needs.

With respect to the minister's opening comments where I said your department is fundamentally important to Nunavutmiut, I want you to maintain that, especially as it applies to our business community and economic development. Some people in Nunavut continually ask who within government

they can turn to for discussing these issues. That's why I'm commenting on this matter.

You sometimes deal with the requirements under Article 24, specifically the NNI Policy. You stated that this policy will be reviewed and I will be one of those who have expectations about the business community being consulted during this review. It would be ideal not to have to wait because it has been many years since the creation of Nunavut, 12 years, actually going on 13 years since 1999.

We also have to abide by the contracting requirements of the NNI Policy. Compliance has to improve and it is well known that it is quite generous as bonuses can go up to 21 percent. (interpretation ends) So in my view, (interpretation) this is partly why your department is critical, as per my earlier comments during question period.

In some ways, the Nunavut government is being branded as taking a socialist approach. This means to you have to decide as to whom you are providing more support. (interpretation ends) Socialist control? (interpretation) Should the hamlets be taking on more contracts for their local projects? Alternatively, should we be tendering these projects to be less costly and more efficient, or should we just leave it the way it is? Should we be looking at more sole source contracts for organizations, such as co-operatives? I believe that the minister has to be very careful when considering this matter. In my opinion, I believe that it should be a balanced mix and not just be one thing such as if we were to target certain sectors. We should award the best bids and that is my

choice, but we have to remember that if we're only going to one side, then it would upset many Nunavutmiut. That is why I'm making these comments to this point.

However, we will want to hear about the air transportation issues, especially here in Nunavut, where we have few choices. So we need to look at alternatives down the road. I want to know if we can have expectations of change from the minister. I will conclude with that in my general comments, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any general comments to Minister Taptuna's opening comments? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also welcome the minister and his officials. It is clear that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has made some progress in development.

Many of us as members, however, in representing our constituents, continue to have major concerns about docks. The other community that I represent, Hall Beach, has absolutely no protection for boats that are along the shoreline. I'm aware that ED&T is entirely dependent on the federal government to fund these infrastructure projects and this seems to be our only option.

I know that there have been hydrographical studies in some communities that the minister mentioned as having been approved by the federal government program for small craft harbours. Mr. Chairman, I believe the whole issue has to be revisited since the current criteria limit these federally

funded projects to communities that can show commercial potential, such as the Iqaluit port, and those identified in the Small Craft Harbours program.

Particularly on the issue of poverty reduction, hunters' expensive equipment have to be looked after properly, especially boats, and they need a safe place. They're vulnerable to destruction from the high winds and some are lost due the lack of protection.

Mr. Chairman, this is what I wanted to speak to in my general comments. I want to be one of the members expecting the department to focus more on smaller communities' breakwaters or safe harbours, particularly during the summer. Winter freeze-up is happening later and I believe the department needs to consider and focus more on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I share your thoughts. (interpretation ends) Minister Taptuna, did you want to make a comment? Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when it comes to small docks, marine infrastructure in Nunavut is very difficult. We do have to work with the Government of Canada, the DFO department. We continually try to find alternative ways to try and provide some of this infrastructure that is critical for Nunavummiut. We do understand that as a department. We're not only talking with the folks down in Ottawa, we're also talking with the mining companies and exploration companies to try and partner in any kind of possible way to benefit these communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. General comments. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. Going back to your opening comments on page 3 on poverty reduction, I would like clarification on what poverty really means. I think a little over a year will have been spent working on it. Can you elaborate further on exactly what *Makimaniq* means under poverty reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The Makimaniq Plan is a guide for the government and our partners. Of course, our partners are the businesses that are out there, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the regional Inuit associations. It's a guide; it's a step to get to the action items where we plan to do these action items in cooperation with all the communities in partnership. We believe that if everybody is involved, we will get a better beneficial result than just the government trying to do some of these things.

In the plan, there are statements in there to actually come up with an Act, a Poverty Reduction Act for the government, which, in other words, establish the government to continue on trying to find ways and having a budget line item for that specific purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Are there any further general comments? Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there's going to be a lot of issues covered. Have you completed your consultations with the communities? I'll start off with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our *Tamapta* Action Plan or *Tamapta* document, we intend to tackle; we made our statement with the intention of tackling poverty within our territory. And yes, we want the communities to be a participant, a full partner and participant in helping everybody deal with the poverty we have in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, everybody knows that poverty is over 60 percent in Nunavut. There are a lot of young children who go to school without eating.

With the partnerships we would form with communities, businesspeople, including people who have been advising us who are in poverty, we have involved everybody and of course, our major partners. There are mining companies and exploration companies that are hoping and looking for ways to contribute to this poverty reduction plan that we're trying to implement. So yes, we're trying to involve everybody. Again, in some certain situations, it's going to be difficult, but we intend to carry through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, minister. As you move towards the implementation of the work you are doing to reduce poverty, first of all, minister, I would like to ask if your department has come up with a definition of poverty as you are moving forward to... .

The issue of poverty can be very broad. I'm sure your department has looked into the meaning of poverty and as you're moving forward, you would know the different varieties that poverty can do for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The definition for poverty is very broad and it's very difficult to pin down. It could mean a whole bunch of other things, but for the most part, the definition we're trying to use is coming from consultations with our communities. Some of these things are just a matter of using common sense.

For the most part, Mr. Chairman, when a person or a family can't decide on their future, on where their next meal is coming from, they're in poverty. We know that. If a person can't contribute or is uncertain of their future, for their own future and their family's future, usually they are in poverty. Without trying to get down to the finer details of the definition, which could mean a whole lot of things, it could be a lack of spiritual

willingness and this and that. It's a whole number of things.

I believe that there is a word in The Makimaniq Plan that we're trying to use. I just can't recall off the top of my head what that word is. For the most part, usually it's a group, an individual, a family, a group of people who cannot make their future. If they can't decide on their future or can't make their own future, it's usually a family in poverty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I would like to remind you that we're on general comments at this time. You will have an opportunity to ask detailed questions when we get to the appropriate pages. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm on the opening comments of the minister on The Makimaniq Plan. There is reference to the construction of various housing to make them affordable because it will help improve our lives. I'll speak in English.

(interpretation ends) On page 7 of The Makimaniq Plan, on C and D, you're talking about affordable housing options and also multi-party inquiry. Can you explain what the multi-party inquiry and public dialogue will be? Where are you in this stage and how are you moving forward on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we are trying to keep our organizational partnerships in constant consultations with our

communities and our partners. With some of our round table discussions, we do have to come up with an agreement on how to tackle these issues that are facing us. We intend to do that in a planned, methodical way in which everybody has agreed to in the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. General comments to the opening comments. If there are none, we will now proceed to page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. \$12,766,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Under Corporate Management, it states, (interpretation ends) “provides overall central leadership and direction,” amongst others, policy development, corporate, “communications and the Government of Nunavut-wide *Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti* (NNI) policy training.” (interpretation) I have a question on that so we all have a clear understanding.

I believe I have 10 minutes and I won't go past that. The Minister of Finance had announced that the NNI Policy would be reviewed and we need to know how long the review is going to take. Do you now know how long it will take? I believe that was done. I believe you will review it again. Can we get the information on the timeframe? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we do reviews with our partners, we try to do them as quickly as

possible. At times, it's difficult to come up with certain agreements and working with some of these policies can be difficult. We do need Justice onsite there to help us out with the legal points of issues that may arise.

Most of all, under the land claims Article 24, it's very clear, so that's our guideline. Everything we try and do under that has to be in cooperation and agreement with our organizational partner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. To try and put a timeline on that is very difficult, but as the member knows, we want to move forward on this. My colleagues have indicated their willingness to participate and come to a conclusion for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Of course, there has to be a working relationship between those entities. For further clarification, is the NNI Policy in compliance with Article 24? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's in compliance with Article 24 and if there's a public tender or an RFP or a sole source contract, or if there was a (interpretation ends) Nunavut-wide public tender

(interpretation), not just an RFP, (interpretation ends) which is more binding, I think, the general public tender, (interpretation) I think it's not only the business community that is not consistent with the policy. It doesn't seem to be applied consistently with the client departments either. Is that true? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I can't speak on behalf of procurement. The majority of the big contracts, public contracts, and RFPs do have to go through another department.

For the most part, the NNI Secretariat that's within my department just acquired more assistance last fall, which we call an analyst accountant, to help us make sure that everything is in line with the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to switch to English. By and large, I think the NNI Policy is not bad. It may need clean-up here and there, but it would before. With the previous administration, there were no widespread inconsistencies applied by the contracting managers within the government.

In terms of the review that you're now committed, could you explain to the committee why the review is necessary in your view? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the committee member for that question. As time goes by, in government, we do have to review our policies. Things change as time goes by. New initiatives come out from the public, the contractors, and companies that are out there. So we do have to keep in line with what's happening with the times. Things do change and we want to make sure that our policies are consistent and looked at in a way where the government can treat everyone fairly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I always say that in complying with the provisions of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, Article 4 should not be the only one the government is complying with. Everybody knows Article 4, that the Nunavut government shall be established.

We are the preachers of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. We're not independent of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. It's all part and parcel. Article 24 is one of those. It's very quite clear and specific. It obligates the government to establish procedures and policies. NNI is one of them.

Why is it that Article 24 and NNI appear to continually be resisted by some client departments in actually complying with the provisions of NNI? Otherwise, there won't be a review. Would you agree with that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't agree with that. There is a department that does procurement on behalf of the whole government. The reviews are not just for NNI; there are a number of policies that the government has to constantly review, as I mentioned before. Things change, times change, methodologies change, and we do have to keep up with the times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NNI obligations, if they are established, Article 24 obligations are very clear. It directs the government. It uses the word "direction." It uses the word "shall" establish a number of procedures and policies. I believe NNI is that document if it is related to Article 24. I still contend that there is still some resistance by some departments to actually make it binding on all major contracts. Would you agree with that?

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Article 24 has to be followed according to its article and policies, and that. I do agree. Yes, the land claims do have to be followed. I'm not an expert in that, but for the most part, my initial disagreement was that I don't know what the other departments are doing. That's my disagreement, but I do agree that the land claims do have to be looked at with care and for the most part, abided by. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate your response because I think it's clarifying a number of points, one being that Article 24 is a binding policy. It is a special right. If you read Article 2, it immediately sanctions a whole agreement with constitutional provisions of Canada. It binds it, and then it says that if there is any following later, if there are any inconsistencies with federal and territorial laws and the agreement, there is a provision that says that this land claims agreement shall prevail. So it establishes a certain right, a modern day right, an aboriginal right, we can call it the Inuit right, through Article 24.

Having said that, how is that policy made clear to the whole apparatus in the government? Who signs off a direction and says, "This is now part of the law and it must be followed," or is it just sort of a loose kind of policy that says if they find it, they can apply it? And I'm going on the extreme, but is there actually a directive issued to the department, a process? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With a policy like that, it usually has to be approved by the cabinet and we have been constantly reviewing and trying to improve our policies since we got on as a government. Again, I've got to say that it's constantly ongoing. Things have got to be improved, things have got to become more efficient, and we aim to do that as a government. Things do change.

The ways businesses are conducted, run, and done do change and we have to change accordingly, but at the end of the day, for policies, cabinet has that final decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I understand that, but I think it's a joint approval required because DIO has to be consulted, according to Article 24.3.4, that they must be consulted with. If there are any attempts to change provisions, they must also be consulted. That means they likely have to approve provisions that you're going to be making changes to.

Okay, having said that, I want to deal with a bit of an Inuit firm status. I believe sometimes that there is a bit of confusion of Inuit firm status. Inuit firm status is only quite very simple. It has a very clearly worded guideline from Article 24, and it just gives a company an Inuit firm status, nothing else. It doesn't give them a designation that they're now qualified to run an airline. That's the responsibility of the contracted manager.

Would you agree sometimes that there is confusion, just by having mere Inuit status, that Inuit are now qualified to run a major service, a performance, an experience, including values? In short, it's called a merit system. Will you make it clear that an Inuit firm status from NTI is just designating them an Inuit status, not qualifying them to operate a major system? That sometimes, I think, should be addressed through the requirement aspects of the public tender. Am I right or am I confused? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I'm not a land claims expert. Previously I indicated that the cabinet has the final say in approving policies. If it involves another organization, yes, of course, we look for the agreement to finalize some policies, especially NNI. Now, I'm not an expert in land claims agreements. I'm also not an expert in the Inuit firm status. We don't deal with that in our department. NNI, though procurement, deals with that.

I'll give you an example of some of the things that may have happened in the NWT when there was affirmative action, a thing that was going on for hiring First Nations and aboriginal people. It automatically didn't mean that you had to hire aboriginal people. You had to hire qualified aboriginal people, but this is just beside the point.

We don't have the authority to determine who is who; NTI does that for Inuit owned companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just confirms to me that there is a bit of confusion about this. Affirming a business company and giving them Inuit status is the sole responsibility of NTI. That's their business. Article 24 is not a complex document. It's a simply worded document.

What we have in front of us with Article 24 is really a good piece of document

because it provides Inuit businesses throughout the 25 communities a status to participate in building and competing for contracts. It's a good thing. Unlike Inuvialuit and unlike Mackenzie, the policy is better because it provides communities from Grise Fiord to Sanikiluaq the exact same opportunity to bid on contracts. It's the government's responsibility to make that happen.

So I'm looking forward that there will not only be training for the procurement officials but all officials in the departments, including even us, that we be given a real briefing on exactly how NNI is applied. Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that a well-trained employee is more productive than an untrained one. If there is going a review, everybody should be taking that and training, especially on NNI and Article 24. If there are some misunderstandings about that, I'm sure this government is willing to sit down and look at it, and make sure everybody understands from the get-go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not written here, but I believe we're on page K-4, (interpretation ends) Corporate Management. (interpretation) In the 2008-09 business plan, you talked about banking at the community level. You stated that this was going to be looked at for smaller communities. In the 2012-15

business plan, it doesn't mention that again. I'm concerned about the Link cards that are used through the retail outlets that are very costly. In 2008-09, I thought there was going to be a review done and now it seems to have been dropped. Maybe the minister could tell us if that review will go forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a review done on banking and there was certainly found to be a number of problems that needed to be dealt with. There was no simple solution found.

The most encouraging thing that we can say in terms of banking today is, thanks to Atuqtuarvik and their investment in the First Nations Bank, we have an aboriginal owned bank now with one branch in Iqaluit and they have announced their intention to open two more branches within Nunavut in the near future. As they look into this, I believe they're also giving serious consideration as to how they can expand their service out to other communities. I'm not aware of the details of exactly how they will do that, but I do find that this is the right direction towards a solution.

As they move forward, there will probably be some consultations with the Co-operative system and the Northern Store system to see if, in their expansion, there can be some integrated methods of working within those buildings in the communities. I think that is hope for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Minister Long. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. If you can keep us abreast on this information, it would be ideal. The 2011-14 business plan mentions the *Co-operative Associations Act* and *Credit Unions Act*. For 2011-14, you said that once the credit union legislation has been amended, it's going to be very beneficial to Inuit as far as banking services is concerned. Mr. Chairman, can you tell me what the status of that is? Is it being studied or what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the committee member point out the page number in the business plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): What I'm asking about is not in there. It used to be in the 2011-14 business plan. I was wondering why it's not included in the business plan now. It's no longer in the business plan. In the 2011-14, it states that changes to the *Co-operative Associations Act* and *Credit Unions Act* are warranted. You wanted to make an

amendment on that and that is why I'm asking for an update and why it's not included in the current business plan. Have you resolved that situation? That is my question, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy minister respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of legislative issues that we have to deal with. I guess our only reason for not proceeding with the cooperative changes in both the *Credit Union Act* and the Co-op Act is not a lack of desire to do it but rather a lack of internal capacity to get the work done. It has come to my attention again recently that there are reasons why we should be proceeding with that. So in spite of the fact it is not in the business plan, we will be taking some steps forward in the next fiscal year to begin that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a question, but it's more of a comment. This amendment is something that these organizations really want as many co-operatives would be able to run a credit union program. Co-operatives are owned by members. I will continue to ask questions on that initiative and its implementation. The legislation governing the cooperatives as well as

credit unions is very important to the member co-operatives.

This is primarily a comment at this point. I will want to hear any updates pertaining to progress being made on this file as this issue is felt by many of the Co-operatives. This is just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Did you want to comment, Minister Taptuna?

Mr. Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the lines of questioning as my colleague, Mr. Tapardjuk, the people of Baker Lake, the Kivalliq, and Nunavut are aware that NBCC, under the Atuqtuarvik Corporation, had created a partnership with First Nations TD Bank. I'm aware that these talks have been going on for several years now in regard to the anticipation of economic development in the region and contributions to Nunavut.

I just wanted to reiterate that smaller communities, such as Baker Lake, would very much like to continue to contribute to Nunavut's economic growth stimulation. With that, it is just basically well known that people in smaller communities who are contributing to Nunavut with economic development, such as Baker Lake, want banking services and not have to resort to banking services in other communities. I

don't think the problems would be there. I want to state politely, if I may, that banks wouldn't have any problems accepting people's money and to invest into their services.

With that, I was glad to see earlier in the sitting that the minister had tabled the NBCC activity reports. As a spinoff of that, I wanted to ask the minister. In the 2012-15 business plan, it indicates that of the priorities for 2012-13 is to, and I quote, "Initiate the preparation of a renewed Nunavut Economic Development Strategy for 2013-2023." Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask if the minister or his officials can elaborate on providing more detail on the status of this initiative and when they expect to complete the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The existing Nunavut Economic Development Strategy was developed approximately 10 years ago and it is at the end of its life. So we will, along with NTI and the federal government, and with participation from many other organizations interested in economic development, begin the process of developing a new strategy. We expect to launch into the earlier stages of that development in the next fiscal year and have it complete and ready for presentation to this House and to the

NTI board of directors within two years.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the benefit of my colleagues and the viewers, the economic development strategy that I referred to in the business plan is on page 183, bullet 6.

However, with that, I just wanted to read on page 182 of the business plan for your priorities, it states that “The Nunavut Business Development Corporation is a territorial corporation that delivers programs and services that provide sustainable economic development and employment opportunities in Nunavut’s communities.” The last sentence, I find, is what the deputy minister and the official had just indicated is “The corporation works closely with the government, communities and community groups to stimulate local economies and develop self-sustaining, locally-controlled enterprises.” I’m glad that the department and the officials are able to identify that. I would like to advise the department that I would be pursuing further questions in regard to banking services for smaller communities, as I had done earlier in the House.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask as well for the record if the Minister of ED&T or his officials: what changes would you like to see in the new economic development strategy? Perhaps to inform me and educated the committee as well, the question is: what changes would you like to see in the new

economic development strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll have my deputy respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we developed the original economic development strategy approximately 10 years ago, the economic situation was very different in Nunavut. We did recognize that there were four pillars of economic development that would be our priorities. Within those were mining, fisheries, cultural industries, and tourism. Since 10 years ago, there have been significant differences, improvements, and progress made in mining and in the fisheries. There were also changes and progress being made in tourism and cultural industries.

The new strategy does not have to move off in new directions. It is more a process of updating itself to the current situation we’re in and how we can move forward over the next 10 years based on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s not a question but a comment, if I may. I would like to inform the committee members and our witnesses here that Nunavut tourism is a very major attraction that appeals to everybody in the world. I had mentioned

in the House before that there are great economic spinoffs that we benefit from, such as our wildlife tourists, and I believe that we have such a unique territory that we can expand on this and enhance on it by supporting of Nunavut tourism.

I just wanted to thank the minister for pointing out the four issues, obviously, in terms of what would attract and strategize in the 10-year plan, as he has indicated mining, fishing, cultural, and tourism. I very much appreciate the economic development department. I just would like to see more support and promotional support for Nunavut tourism. I would like to pursue that in detail in another setting. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) I think that was just a comment, unless the minister wants to make a comment on that. (interpretation) Thank you. We are on page K-4. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions I was going to pose were already asked by my colleagues. I'll just ask the minister to elaborate a little bit more on the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy as they're moving forward to renewing this one. Can he elaborate a little bit more on the possible changes towards the strategy that they're hoping to achieve?

He did mention that he has been discussing this with a lot of the stakeholders. If the minister can explain: if they're moving towards discussing this with stakeholders, are they expecting to just have discussions or are they also going to work towards having

major meetings with stakeholders?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so it's clearly understood, the organizations leading the new strategy will be the GN, led by the economic development department, CanNor, and NTI. We will be making the financial investment in whatever is required to move this forward. The last time, we had 22 other organizations that basically signed on to the strategy and were full participants in approving it and developing it. So it will be a working group approach over a period of two years with as much participation as we can get from all those organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*. (interpretation) I would like to move on to another question about soapstone quarrying. There have been assessments and a strategy on that. Have you worked to identify possible soapstone quarries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The soapstone quarrying evaluation program has been ongoing. Of course, we do work with other communities that are assisting us. There are a number of communities we evaluated last year and this is to identify new sources of carving soapstone. There are 50 sites that were evaluated within reach of 11 communities. We're very much involved and we're very much appreciating the fact that we're doing this for the artists who are out there.

Within the next two years, we're going to be evaluating more deposits in another region of the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq. Although there has already been a lot of work done in the Kivalliq, especially around Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, and in the Baffin, Pangnirtung, Hall Beach, Cape Dorset, and Kimmirut, we're going to continue this for another two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have no more names on my list for this page. We're on page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$12,766,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page K-5. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 188 in your business plan, one of your priorities for 2012-13 is to "Complete negotiations on

a Development Partnership Agreement for Hope Bay/Doris (Newmont). Continue negotiations with Baffinland for the Mary River project." I would like an update on that because I have a concern. I'm not too sure if the Mary River project will be delayed. What is the status of the Nunavut government's negotiations? I want an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. The negotiations are preliminary; they're ongoing. The member is well aware that a development partnership agreement is finalized when the company is going to go into production or construction or, in actual fact, get a project certificate, meaning that they're going ahead into production. That's when the final DPA is signed, with agreements from both sides. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I just want clarification. Are you saying that they're now starting or ready to start negotiations? Please clarify that. Are the negotiations ongoing or are they stalled right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, the negotiations aren't happening. They're still quite a ways to get through the end of project

certification for that. We're aware of that. Both sides already understand the majority of the things that are going to be in a development partnership agreement. For the most part, a development partnership agreement will be finalized once a project certificate is issued to the proponent.

Mr. Chairman, although the company has scaled back on the project, they recently withdrew an application to install heavy duty equipment in there, in what they call a pre-development phase. They did pull out that application and for the most part, the activity happening there is scaled back down. I believe that they're going to be spending at least \$20 million at the site, compared to the \$500 million that they had proposed within their application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. It's now obvious that this will go ahead. I need clarification on the preparation for negotiations with the federal government in regard to a devolution agreement with the Nunavut government in 2012-13. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation was going to be involved. Can you clarify who is responsible for that? Is it the Premier's Office? This is where I'm confused. If you can clarify that for me, it will make me happy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Please clarify it for him and make him happy, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, devolution negotiations are the responsibility of the Premier's Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Now I'm more confused. In your business plan, it indicates that there will be devolution negotiations. Perhaps there is a mistake and it should go through the Premier's Office. How are you going to be involved in the formal negotiations? At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions regarding devolution negotiations. I just wanted to get further clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The devolution negotiations are conducted through the Premier's Office. Of course, every department will be assisting in that. For development partnership agreements, there are three departments that do that and it is led by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation with the assistance of Community and Government Services and Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have no more names on my list for this page. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask a question regarding oil exploration. We know that Greenland

is pretty active now exploring around the Davis Straight area. Can the minister update us on whether there has been any interest in oil exploration in the Canadian side or if they have been asked about this? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there haven't been any applications put forth for any kind of exploratory work for oil or gas in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand oil exploration is at a standstill. In the Northwest Territories, oil exploration is continuing and we expect Shell Oil to begin exploring for oil on the mainland in the NWT. There is nothing for Nunavut, is there? Have you heard of any interest in oil exploration, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. I understand that in the NWT, there is a lot of activity happening. There are applications being put forward to the aboriginal affairs and northern development office to get permits to do work up in the NWT, but so far in Nunavut, there have been none. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe we can expect to see oil exploration, whether it's by Shell Oil, perhaps by what's called hydraulic fracturing deep underground.

In Northwest Territories, discussions have started on the need to amend environmental legislation. It would be better to start planning ahead of time to amend our legislation. Are we just going to wait for the federal government to devolve the responsibility for oil exploration to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a National Energy Board that reviews all the environmental issues that are related to oil and gas drilling throughout Canada, including all the territories. It's more or less like the Nunavut Impact Review Board. We do have that within our jurisdiction of Nunavut. The National Energy Board has the responsibility of reviewing all the environmental, people, safety, every type of issue that involves oil and gas drilling throughout Canada. They're the ones who have the final say and the permitting through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I have another question regarding the projects that will be going ahead. There has some disagreement with the approval process by the mining industry. Can the minister indicate to us if that

was approved by the mining companies or has he heard that changes need to be made? NIRB is not the only one involved in the approval process; there is the water board. In the NWT, their approval process is continually changed, and they're in negotiation over oil development regulations. Do we know if the mining sector has problems or is it better managed here in Nunavut than in the NWT? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our regulatory process here in Nunavut is quite a bit better than most jurisdictions in Canada. It's straightforward and clear under the land claims, with IPGs involved, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board, and of course, the planning commission, and the communities are involved throughout the process. I've got to say that in our jurisdiction of Nunavut, our environmental review regulations that NIRB goes through are second to none in my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. It is part of his response, but in Greenland, they're working aggressively in oil exploration in parts of Davis Strait. If they should find some oil during that exploration, I'm sure that development would approach closer to Nunavut. Can the minister indicate if there is going to be oil exploration in Nunavut's offshore in the future? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When oil companies are involved in exploratory drilling for oil and gas, mainly oil, in all the preliminary work, there's got to be seismic testing and seismic information out there that they can use.

Mr. Chairman, it's almost like looking for a deposit out on land. You do have to have information, good and reliable data on where to look for oil and gas. You just don't go out there and start drilling holes. For the most part, that's why geological surveys happen on the land for mineral deposits. The Geological Survey of Canada maps out and surveys the land out there, maps it, and that's when the prospectors and the mining exploration companies come in. The survey identifies the haystack and the companies look for that needle in the haystack.

It's the same thing for oil and gas. They do have to have seismic data to work with. At this time, there is some old seismic data that's available out there, but with new technology, I'm sure there are companies that are willing to go out there and do this type of work for sale to the oil companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Very briefly in English. (interpretation ends) I certainly encourage the minister to do all he can to allow mineral exploration [companies] to actively find some minerals in Nunavut. I know that a lot of

the promotional stuff and resources may be limited.

In terms of the oil and gas, would the minister be able to indicate to the House here that oil and gas development will not actually happen for a long while? Do we have a bit of radar whether or not there would be any increase in activity or should we say to Nunavutmiut, “That isn’t going to happen for a while”?

Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question. Mr. Chairman, we all know that in Newfoundland, they drill for oil and gas offshore, mainly for oil. We do know for a fact that the Newfoundland government collects royalties, which could amount to over \$4 billion a year. That’s why they have the funds to build alternative energy at their rivers for clean energy hydro plants. They’re doing a project now that’s over \$6 billion that’s to make a better quality of life for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In Greenland, of course, they’re drilling for oil and gas. That’s exactly what they want to do. They want to be more autonomous. They want to take control of their own destiny. They want to get rid of poverty. They want more economic activity. That’s one of the roads, oil and gas, collecting oil and gas royalties.

At this time, we know that there is one producing well which produces oil and that’s produced for 10 years. It produced about three million barrels of oil, which

Resolute Bay and the oil companies used back then straight into their generators and into their equipment. The well still contains about four million barrels, I believe, approximately. It’s a small amount, but we know for a fact that there are vast reservoirs of oil out there.

In fact, there have been experienced geological surveys from both Canada and the United States that indicate that there is probably 20 billion barrels of oil within our territory. To get to a point where there is drilling and production, it’s still a long ways away. Having spent 13 years drilling for oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea, I do have a little bit of experience. I would estimate a guess of 15 years before we see any kind of production coming out of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think that’s important to understand. Also, I always say, when there is preparation needed, whether you’re a hunter or not, it’s never too early to prepare. I think it’s the same with the offshore development of oil exploration.

I think, in my view, this government should have a clear strategy that offshore [development] will not occur until safety measures are actually in place for potential oil disasters or whatnot because our environment is just too critical. I would encourage the minister to have a clear set of planning processes done.

Fifteen years is not a long time because the world is really quite... . You talk about 20 million barrels. It may be a

renowned product in Nunavut; that would be one day of consumption for the United States.

Would the minister be prepared to deal with the protection measures needed before any attempt to encourage offshore development in Nunavut's offshore boundaries? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have no jurisdiction over oil and gas drilling and exploration in Nunavut. That's governed by the National Energy Board and of course, a governmental department in Ottawa which we used to call INAC.

Of course, when it goes through the regulatory hearing with the impact statements, every affected community, including this government, will be involved in looking at all the possible things that we could intervene. Of course, environmental protection, human safety protection, and wildlife protection is key. Just like in our mining strategy, if it's beneficial, if it doesn't hurt the environment and our people, we will support it in some certain way.

At the end of the day, we do not have the jurisdiction over Crown land, but once devolution is negotiated, there is a possibility where we will have that authority to disperse licensing and permits for this type of activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I understand that very well. The federal government has jurisdiction. What I'm trying to get at is it's not too early for us to have a policy for a position that we oppose in Nunavut as a government, offshore exploration or development planned by any oil companies, until contingency plans for oil spills and all that are actually in place, including the federal government and the Nunavut government.

Would you be agreeable to establish our position at least, that we will not encourage offshore oil exploration until contingency plans are properly developed by the federal government? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee member asked that question earlier about the Arctic drilling review, which was conducted by the National Energy Board. We are aware of that document. I believe, Mr. Chairman, it was you who brought the issue up. We are aware of that document and we are pleased with the review. It included your community of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and a couple of other communities within the Baffin. We are pleased with the intention of consulting these smaller communities. We're quite pleased with that.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, some of these things that are beyond this government's control are licensing and permitting for these types of activities. For sure, in any kind of review of regulations and intentions of some of these companies that do want to come up for oil and gas

exploration, we will have a say in how things are worked out. The National Energy Board has been doing this for over 50 years and they are well aware of our arctic conditions up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We're on page K-5. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I have a question on this page. Your department established the new Tourism and Cultural Industries Division in 2010 to provide information to businesses, provide support to community organizations, non-governmental organizations, and industry associations, and manage the implementation of the Government of Nunavut's arts and crafts and tourism development strategies. How has this reorganization in 2010 helped the arts and crafts and tourism industries in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have found that creating this division within the department is helpful. We have staff working directly with the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, Nunavut Tourism, and other NGOs that are interested in arts and crafts development and tourism development. They are playing a lead role.

As we move forward on our contribution agreements, we are doing something we call measurable results, where we're negotiating with our NGO partners. In our contribution agreements, we're asking for specific things they're going to do. We're just in the process this month of having funding and strategic planning meetings with both Nunavut Arts and Crafts and Nunavut Tourism to specifically come up with what they plan to do and how we can work with them over the next couple of years.

So we do, at this point, as you know, have an arts and crafts strategy. We're well into the process of developing a tourism strategy and this group is leading the work on the tourism strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Minister Long. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, deputy minister. In 2010, your department issued a request for proposals for consultants to develop a tourism sector development strategy, stakeholder and community consultations. The RFP closed on January 19 of last year. What company was awarded this contract and what was the value of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry; you caught me off guard with that one. I don't know the value of the contract and the name of the company escapes me, but it was a company based in Whitehorse and the work was completed last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've had those days too. Your department's 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that "A draft Tourism Strategy was developed with an advisory group of Nunavut Tourism, CanNor, Nunavut Parks and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Consultations on the draft strategy with industry and stakeholders are on-going." When will the comprehensive tourism strategy be completed and will you be tabling it any time soon in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That work is ongoing. We're making good progress. My guess will be that we will table that document no later than the winter session of this upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*. (interpretation) The minister mentioned tourism and its review earlier. He stated that in the spring, they heard from quite a few people on what they want to see happen. Although this has to do with the strategy, they have launched a three-year community tourism and cultural industries program. He also stated the need for tourism and culture-related infrastructure. Can the minister elaborate further on what was discussed in that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to recall what I said in my ministerial statement. I just can't, but I'll have my deputy minister elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Can you read his mind, please? Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of infrastructure around tourism and arts and crafts, the first thing that I will comment on is the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, within the arts and crafts strategy, is looking at community workshops. They have identified this as something they want to do. They are currently refining their plan on that and are trying to determine costs and how this could be paid for. That would be the intent and I suspect it will be very well received.

On the other side, within the tourism development, we do believe there will be a need for community infrastructure to enhance our ability to deliver good

tourism products. The process that is underway there is we are updating the community economic development plans in cooperation and led by the communities. Where they identify infrastructure that would be of value to tourism, then the next step is us working with them and trying to determine how to pay for and how to create that infrastructure.

That one is a little less developed and we see it as very much being community driven. We want to know what the community wants and then we will do what we can with other funding partners, such as CanNor, to try and make it happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Deputy Minister Long. (interpretation) We are on page K-5. I have no more names on my list. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,952,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page K-6. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, I was privileged to accept an invitation by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba with Premier Selinger and Deputy Premier Robinson, as well as George Hickes, Speaker of the Manitoba legislature. The invitation was to recognize the Manitoba and Inuit relations, and to recognize how Inuit and Manitoba work together as well as access services that were provided by the federal government and then INAC, now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern

Development Canada, as well as other agencies.

It's a fact that some issues were positive and some weren't in terms of past relations. However, the ongoing interaction continues as evidenced by talks of the Nunavut-Manitoba road. My question, Mr. Chairman, is in the department's 2010-13 business plan, it's indicated that one of its priorities was to "Complete the next phase of studies for the Nunavut-Manitoba Road" and that "The Business Case study is complete in final draft form, and is being reviewed by the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba."

Last year during your appearance before the standing committee, the department indicated that the business case study was completed. When will you table a copy of the study in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with our partners in Manitoba and at this time, they are unwilling to release the study, but we are in the process of trying to deal with that so we can actually release it to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under K-6, the discussion is Transportation and the 2012-15 business plan, on page 189, Transportation Policy and Planning, indicated that "The division is directly responsible for several federally-funded programs

including overseeing the Canadian Coast Guard Remote Re-supply Sites Memorandum of Understanding.”

It's indicated by constituents that Coast Guard presence would aid search and rescue operations, sovereignty presence, and environmental monitoring with the fact that enhanced mining exploration will be ongoing in the region and Nunavut will be benefiting from the economic development. I just wanted to ask: how many Coast Guard or Coast Guard auxiliaries are posted within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we're not aware of any Coast Guard auxiliaries that may exist within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As members are aware and this House is aware, the enhanced presence of Canadian agencies as well as the request for enhanced services for search and rescue and aid operations for all Nunavummiut is quite sensitive. As we all know, it's federally funded and DFO in terms of Coast Guard in order to initiate it. Does this department or the government foresee any plans in which they would request more presence of Coast Guard in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In cooperation with other departments within the government, yes, of course, we're always hoping to see more involvement and more infrastructures being put up here for search and rescue related matters. It's not only in that. There's going to be more activity happening within our territorial waters. Any assistance from the federal government in putting up infrastructure and personnel here on the ground would assist us enormously. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Mr. Aupaluktuq, are you done? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I want to start first with, in terms of transportation, the Nanisivik “highway,” which seemed to flip back and forth between an access road to, I think the minister did a Minister's Statement about it being a highway. I just wanted clarification. Is that an access road or is it still considered a highway? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to request that I bring in my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation to help me respond to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Minister Taptuna, for the record, please indicate who your staff is. (interpretation) Thank you.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Methusalah Kunuk, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Transportation Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome, Mr. Kunuk. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, can I ask you to ask your question again for the benefit of Mr. Kunuk. (interpretation) Thank you.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As long as the clock is not running, that would be great.

My question was based around the Nanisivik highway. In the past, there has been some confusion when I had asked whether it was considered an access road or a highway. I think, at one point, we were told it was an access road, but then it was changed by, I believe, the Minister's Statement that the minister did announcing that it was a highway. So I just wanted clarification what its designation is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his question regarding the status of whether it is termed a highway or an access road, at this point in time, I cannot really respond as to which status has been bestowed on it. However, we are working with the Department of National Defence on this issue and to eventually determine the status of the road. We have been meeting with the representatives to complete it.

(interpretation ends) Can I say it in English? I'll say it in English. We are now working with the Department of [National] Defence. We have been meeting with them on that road. At this point, we are not really clear yet on how we're going to do it, but it looks like DND wants to keep it open.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, you will be happy to note that there was no time deducted off of you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That brings me to my next question of: until the determination is made as to who owns or doesn't own it, will the Government of Nunavut continue to maintain the road? Again, I ask because I know there's an allocation, I think, of \$500,000 for community road access funds. So I need to know where and who will be maintaining the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we are talking to DND. It looks like they have some funds to keep

it open at least for the summer months. They do not have a direct mechanism right now to transfer the funds they're talking about to us. They're still trying to determine how it's going to be funded in order to keep the road open for at least four months in the summer. We have been in teleconferences with them and they wanted to meet with me personally later this month to talk about it. They seem to have started working out what details they want to do as well as what mechanism they're going to be using to fund it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the Nanisivik Airport, my understanding is that the airport is considered closed. There's still equipment up there, buildings, and runway lights, and whatnot, but a lot of materials have been taken down and are now being used with the Arctic Bay Airport. I'm just wondering: in all respects, is that airport closed? So no charter should be landing on it; it's not considered an actual runway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my assistant deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you're correct. The Nanisivik Airport is now closed. We're not maintaining it. I don't think I can really say if a charter company wants to use it,

but it's closed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of ownership of the airport, is the airport owned by Transport Canada and it's a federal area or is it owned by the Government of Nunavut through ED&T? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's still owned by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of remediation of the area and there's a dumpsite and used equipment that's there, will the Government of Nunavut be starting to clean that area up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, we still haven't determined how soon we're going to start cleaning it up. We are trying to look at our initial turnover agreements with the federal government when they will turn over what's in the airport and what kind of liability the federal government has. At this point, I can't really answer you yet how soon the clean-up is going to be starting.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there an actual process when an airport closes where they do a reclamation plan to show how it's going to be decommissioned? I think one of the other questions I wanted answered would be whether there was an environmental assessment in terms of contamination. There has been 30 years worth of planes landing there and refuelling, and whatnot. So I'm wondering: do they do assessments like an environmental assessment to see what needs to be cleaned up to have it reclaimed back to the way it was when it was originally built? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, that's exactly what would happen. There would be an environmental study on it to determine what kind of clean-up it requires. That would be done before any work starts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the reclamation plan, I don't know if there's a special term for it, but when is that actually going to start? Are we just at the starting block? Will there be an assessment done in the summer? Maybe a bit of a timeline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Like I said earlier, we're still trying to determine who is really responsible for areas, whether it's the federal government, and some parts may be ours. Until we exactly determine that, we can start the environmental study as well as maybe deciding when the reclamation would be started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what I want to do next is maybe change gears towards talking about Nanisivik. In terms of all airports across the territory, how often do Transport Canada regulators go around to monitor our airports to make sure that all the requirements are being met and that safety regulations are actually being followed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Twice a year; they do it in the winter and also in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now going to a different means of transportation in terms of some of the comments that the other members made earlier about water transportation and mineral exploration, we are moving towards more ships travelling throughout the Northwest Passage and our waters. There is definitely a concern for spills or

even contamination, people dumping garbage, and whatnot.

In terms of your Transportation Policy and Planning Division, is your department looking into strategies for long-term use of our waterways or is that something that the federal government does and we have no ability to influence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Through NORAD, there is surveillance happening through the organization. I'm pretty sure you have heard of NORAD. Also, Environment Canada is responsible for making sure these foreign ships are abiding by Canadian laws.

Of course, in our transportation strategy, if there is room for improvements on our strategy regarding environmental protection, we will take a look at that when the time comes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, my question is in line with what Mr. Aupaluktuq was asking. I was hoping to get more explanation. In terms of the business plan on page 189, it talks about transportation policy and planning, where the division is directly responsible for several federally funded programs, including overseeing the Canadian Coast Guard Remote Re-supply of Sites Memorandum of Understanding. Could

the minister explain what that actually means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the memorandum of understanding for the remote resupply sites within these small communities, there are push-ups and landing areas that are specific to the resupply sites. The communities do apply to the department to access funds to either make it safer or clean up that site within these communities. I believe the amount is \$5,000 per community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With representing three communities, I've had a couple of my communities concerned about the actual offloading area where these ships pull up and then they bring in the barges and land on the shore. What the communities were hoping to do was change the location, mainly because it's close to where a lot of traffic is and a lot of young people moving in and out. There is always a fear with the heavy equipment. If a community wants to move the location of where that happens, do they work with your department for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and with our partners, the marine suppliers, and anybody who is

involved with these resupplies to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said partners. I'm wondering who specifically. I want to be able to go back to my communities and let my mayors know who to contact and let the SAOs know, or senior administrative officers. My brain...it's getting too late. I want to report back and let them know who they can talk to and make sure that they are talking to the correct people to start the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Yes, we do have a lot of partners within our government. It involves several departments because if you want to relocate a certain site, there's got to be pre-development engineering and other technical expertise that we don't have within the department. So of course, CGS would be involved in some of these initiatives. If that comes to a point, then of course, the marine carriers are the key to this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of marine travel and whatnot, it seems like the federal government is monitoring where the ships go. In terms of where the ships actually dock and for infrastructure, that's your department that deals with that and there's a plan or

strategy around that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do work with our partners and, as I mentioned, that includes DFO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 191 of the business plan, one of the priorities for 2012-13, the last bullet, is "Identify funding for the Iqaluit Marine Facility." I'm wondering again: if it's DFO that does this, are you working with DFO on this? Maybe you could explain what that priority is and what's happening. We have been talking about P3 projects and we have been talking about an airport here in Iqaluit, but I think there are other communities that are looking for marine facilities and docking. I know I heard quite a few other members mentioning things like that. So maybe a clear explanation of what that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: And that includes Pond Inlet, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these projects are huge and involve a lot of money. I can only say that we're doing our best to identify funds. So this priority is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So what is the priority? Maybe you could explain, “Yes, it’s expensive. Yes, it requires a lot of money.” But what are we talking about? Is it docking facilities? Is it help with sealift? It just says, “Iqaluit Marine Facility.” It doesn’t explain what you’re going to try and look for funding for. So I just wanted more explanation on that specific project that you were talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn’t want to surprise Mr. Elliott, but we’re talking with our partners, including the city, Transport Canada, DFO, and a number of other departments. In the past, we submitted three different designs to the city and those are still in discussions. Once we have some certainty on the amount of funding that would be available for the pre-conceptual drawings of the marine facility, we will have a clearer understanding on which direction we’re going to be taking. As soon as we understand that, we will let the committee member know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, to me, this sticks out in my mind because I think it was a Conservative campaign promise, but your department’s 2010-13 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to “Complete the next phase of studies for the Nunavut-Manitoba Road” and that “The Business Case study is complete in

final draft form, and is being reviewed by the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba.”

Last year, during your appearance before the standing committee, you indicated that the business case study was completed. When will you table a copy of the study in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will table it when it’s ready. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean that it’s not ready? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we work with our partners from Manitoba and we do have to respect their wishes. I’ve got to say, at times, we’re ready to do things, but again, we do have to respect their wishes of some of these things that they want to do before we release them and table information that goes public on some of these huge infrastructure items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So am I correct in saying that it’s the Government of Manitoba that doesn’t

want us to know what's happening with this and the Government of Nunavut would like to tell us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that simple as the committee member is making it out to be. I'll have my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation elaborate a little more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The business case study for the Manitoba-Nunavut road has been completed. We try to work with the other jurisdiction and they were getting ready to work with us and release it, but then there was a political change in Manitoba. Those things do happen. They tried to work with the new people over there and hopefully it will be released some time soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your 2011-14 business plan indicated that "The contract for the feasibility study for ports in Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay has been awarded and work is underway. Phase 1 of the Northern Transportation Systems Analysis is complete." Were these feasibility studies completed and will you table them in the Legislative

Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will table them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): In reading these, if a marine facility was built in Cambridge Bay, will that make it possible to nearby communities in the Kitikmeot? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get clarification on her question, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Please clarify your question, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If these ports were to happen in these three places, will the communities in the Kitikmeot benefit from a Cambridge Bay port? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it would. Once you put infrastructure in a region, yes, the surrounding communities usually benefit

from major infrastructure like that.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that. (interpretation ends) As of today, what is the status of your efforts to lobby the federal government for more support for the construction of small craft harbours? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We continue to do that. It's one of our priorities, as stated in our business plan. In May, it was a campaign promise by our MP who sits in cabinet in Ottawa. Yes, we intend to carry on trying to assist our communities in building this direly needed infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We are on page K-6. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Just to add to the small craft harbours issue, the federal government was assessing how the communities would be affected. I know that the report has been done on feasibility studies. Have you received any implementation plans or do they provide funding to your department on this? I need an update on that as well as to the committee. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get clarification on the question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley, please provide clarification.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I believe that Methusalah understood the comment that I made in Inuktitut.

The federal government's Small Craft Harbours program conducted a feasibility study in several communities and some of them have been completed, such as the study done in Rankin Inlet and Arviat. I imagine that these reports have been completed and I believe you are in discussions with your federal counterparts. Have they provided funding or have they committed to provide funding? What is the status of this program? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Perhaps that clarifies it for you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that. Yes, it's clear. Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report, which we jointly did with DFO, includes seven communities. The work that has been done so far by this department: there's preliminary design work at Pond Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay, and Kugaruk with funding from the 2010-11 capital plan. These studies were based on a terms of reference that DFO used for similar

studies at Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, but we're working closely with them.

We do want to move this initiative forward for all of our communities in Nunavut, for that matter, not just in Pangnirtung. Pangnirtung will be completing their small craft harbour this summer, so we're quite envious of Pangnirtung, but we do want marine infrastructure like that within our communities because it is by no means cheap to bring our supplies by air. We do have to try and find ways to bring the cost of living down in Nunavut, so it is our priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I'm not sure whether or not the harbour in Pangnirtung is considered a small craft harbour. (interpretation ends) It's one of the, I think, pretty mid-sized ports, as far as I'm concerned.

Could the minister maybe give us more information with respect to exactly what the timeframe would be for actually working on some of the local craft harbours? If you have any budget amounts projected, could you indicate to the committee, please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in technical terms, Pangnirtung does have a small craft harbour. There are other terms that are being used around for ports, wharfs, docks, which have a totally different meaning, but Pangnirtung does have a small craft harbour.

When we look at some of these initiatives that we specced out for the Iqaluit Marine Facility, it can go as high as \$90 million just for that infrastructure alone. In Clyde River, we're looking at a small craft harbour. Of course, the cost depends on the available construction material, aggregate, geotechnical work, all of that, and the prices for small craft harbours in our communities range from \$15 million to \$20 million.

Mr. Chairman, with this department, we have done some user needs assessments and feasibilities in these small communities. Of course, one of the things that we have to do is do an ocean floor geotechnical analysis that involves engineers to go in there and analyze the seabed because for the most part, you can't build on something that is sinking. So all of these technical things have to be done to determine what kind of facility you're building.

Again, I mentioned construction material. If it's not available within a community, it's very difficult to do this type of work. DFO requires that there are fish habitat studies done. (inaudible)...has to be complete before any kind of rock is put in the water.

Of course, within Baffin Island, the Qikiqtaaluk area, there's got to be an analysis done on tides, wind analysis, ice pressure, and we have been trying to do that to convince DFO that we're doing a lot of this work on our own, and to try and speed up the process where DFO can actually start taking us seriously and helping us and assisting us in building these facilities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I think DFO has indicated the work done on marine and biological studies. Do you have a timeline of when that is going to be done? Since we have completed Pangnirtung, which community is the first priority if there should be funding made available and when would they start putting in the construction material? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In consultation with DFO, Qikiqtarjuaq would be a community that would be considered as a priority for a small craft harbour. That is being based on employment that it creates in fisheries.

We do know for a fact that the fishing ships go to Greenland rather than stay in Nunavut for refuelling and processing their catch. So we're hoping that all this work is going to be done in Nunavut rather than some other country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) I take it for granted because Qikiqtarjuaq is top on the priority list, Mittimatalik is right behind.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We are on page K-6. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. Total Operations and

Maintenance. \$24,280,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go back to K-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$58,998,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Taptuna, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Please.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the committee members for their scrutiny and their comments and questions. We appreciate that. We do our best to make sure that we provide the services that we're obligated to do within our department. I appreciate the suggestions and comments.

I want to thank my staff that did a lot of hard work preparing all of this information.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank the committee members for their scrutiny and appreciate the hard work that you guys do to make sure that everything is on par with what we're trying to do as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (intepretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We have completed the departmental review. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Before we proceed with the review of the next department, we will take a 30-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:16 and resumed at 18:43

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We can now proceed. We will commence our review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation if he has any opening remarks. Mr. Schell

Hon. Fred Schell: Yes, I do.

Chairman: Please.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. I am very pleased to be able to meet with the members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2012-13 main estimates and business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Fiscal 2012-13 GN funding to the housing corporation will increase by

\$13,623,000 from the main estimates of 2011-12. The increase includes:

- \$8,649,000 for O&M costs for new public housing that will be available during the year;
- \$1,143,000 for increases in staff housing lease rates;
- \$348,000 for utilities for new staff housing that will be available during the year;
- \$474,000 for other O&M costs for transfer of Iqaluit staff housing, administration, and new staff housing that will be available during the year;
- \$555,000 increase in administration costs related to finance reorganization previously approved by FMB following announcement relating to construction over-commitments;
- \$527,000 for administration related to increased costs for legal fees, governance, and LHO support;
- \$1,927,000 to offset the net reduction in CMHC funding.

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

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

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2012-13 main estimates and business plan. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman and committee members.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Schell, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you. To my immediate right is Alain Barriault, president of the housing corporation, and to my immediate left is Lori Kimball, Executive Director of Corporate Services and CFO of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

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

Chairman: Please.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and

Economic Development on its review of the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the corporation's proposed 2012-13 main estimates of \$157,382,000 has increased by approximately 7.7 percent since the introduction of the department's 2011-12 main estimates. The number of positions in the corporation is 91. This is an increase of 3.0 PYs from its 2011-12 main estimates.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2010-11 annual report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until February 21, 2012. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2011-12 annual report in the Legislative Assembly and emphasizes the importance of the corporation tabling its annual reports in a timely manner.

On February 21 of last week, the minister also tabled the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting report for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contracting report for 2011-12 in the Legislative Assembly and again emphasizes how important it is that the corporation table its such reports in a timely manner.

During the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the government began the practice of providing annual ministerial letters of expectation to Crown

corporations and agencies in order to establish priorities and provide direction with respect to their operations and initiatives. The current government, through the Public Agencies Council, has indicated that it is undertaking a memorandum of understanding-based approach to this process.

On October 27, 2011, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2011-12 letters of expectation to Crown corporations and agencies in the Legislative Assembly. These letters instructed them to prepare annual reports on their contracting, procurement and leasing activities for tabling in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee strongly encourages the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of priority-setting items that are directed to Crown corporations and agencies, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, on January 20 of last year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a news release concerning the changes being made to strengthen the financial management and the governance structure of the corporation. The standing committee is pleased to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken steps to improve its financial management and governance structure and looks forward to the minister providing ongoing updates on these important issues.

On October 29, 2010, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced the results of Nunavut Housing Needs Survey. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Continue lobbying efforts at the territorial and federal levels to seek

support for the provision of suitable, adequate, and affordable housing across Nunavut." The standing committee fully supports the minister in his efforts to use these results of the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey to secure additional federal funding to reduce Nunavut's housing shortage.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities, which indicated that "The Staff Housing program is being reviewed as part of the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing Strategy." The standing committee encourages the minister to keep the Legislative Assembly fully informed on this issue and looks forward to the minister tabling both a new Staff Housing Policy and the GN's Comprehensive Long-Term Housing Strategy in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. Members note the importance of ensuring that staff housing is available in our smaller communities, especially for health and education positions.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2012-15 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its priorities, which was to "Adopt and implement a revised Rent Scale and guidelines." It indicates the "Initial consultation and analysis of findings has been completed. Options, along with their financial impact, are being prepared for early 2012-2013. These options aim to reduce disincentives to employment and to support the goals of poverty reduction and other social programs."

Mr. Chairman, on October 26 of 2009, all Members of the Legislative Assembly agreed that comprehensive

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

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2010-11 annual report indicates that a total of \$3,352,000 was spent on homeownership programs in 2010-11. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2012-15 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its previous priorities, which was to "Develop and implement a major homeownership program as a cost effective and efficient initiative in support of the construction of new homes." It indicates that "Housing forums were held in January 2011 and September 2011 to discuss various initiatives and alternatives. Further action is pending the outcome of the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing Strategy." Members recognize that the corporation's budget for homeownership programs is primarily funded through its annual capital estimates. Members encourage the minister to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Homeownership Programs Manual in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2012-15 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its previous priorities, which was to "develop a long-term Homelessness Strategy and a corresponding

implementation plan for responding to homelessness across Nunavut." It indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation "has developed the new Tunngasugvik (homeless shelter funding) policy." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2012-13 main estimates have allocated \$400,000 to continue its work through the Homelessness Secretariat. The standing committee looks forward to regular updates on the work of this secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we proceed, I would like to remind my colleagues of Rule 77(1) and Rule 77(2). I believe we are now familiar and able to recite these rules. At this time, before we get into the main estimates, are there any general comments on the opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister in charge of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Within the limited funds in the housing corporation, I'm glad the hon. minister is going to be lobbying the federal government to continue to discuss the growing housing issues in Nunavut. I would also like to acknowledge that the hon. minister is able to increase the funds to the housing corporation by \$13,623,000 to the 2011-12 main estimates.

Mr. Chairman, incidentally, this \$13 million fund that was able to increase a number of various items, is that coming

from the sale of telehandlers that, when the member was on this side of the House, he had ambitious ideas of selling the telehandlers and make extra money to increase housing funds for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. No, it's not the sale of the telehandlers. We haven't dealt with that yet, just as we haven't dealt with all of the extra material that we will be looking at once all of this construction is completed. That is revenue we're getting from the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (inteprrtation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In his opening comments, it states, (interpretation ends) "\$527,000 for administration related to increased costs for legal fees..." (interpretation) I would like to know what these legal fees are for. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for that question. The \$200,000 legal fees are basically for legal fees for corporate administration for the mortgages because we don't use the justice system of the government, so we have to pay for it separately. So that's basically what the money is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Schell. (interpretation) Ms. Ugyuk, are you finished? Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to just comment on an item the minister referred to in his opening comments. In English, it states, (interpretation ends) "The need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government..."

(interpretation) If we're going to expect new housing units for public housing, I seem to recall the federal government's position that until the recommendations had been implemented, we should not expect new funding. Can the minister elaborate on this matter, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Ningeongan for that question. Basically what we're saying here is that we're looking for alternatives in public housing. One of the issues we are looking at is to see if the private sector could get involved in building houses that we can lease off of them.

The other issue is we are working on trying to satisfy the federal government in regard to doing another audit, which actually we're meeting with the auditor this coming week with me, the president, and the board. Hopefully we can have this settled in such a way that the federal government is pleased that we are operating in a proper way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An issue that I first want to just comment on that I will raise questions on at the appropriate time is one that the minister and his officials are most likely aware of. In the smaller communities, private homeowners are seemingly locked into owning their houses as there is no market. When private homeowners wish to move to another community and try to sell their house, the unit sits as there are no buyers who can purchase their house.

There is no market in the smaller communities as the pool of potential buyers is practically non-existent. Further, the private homeowners who are following the government's wishes for residents to own their own homes are being placed in very difficult situations since they cannot sell their house, even though they want to move to a different community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) I will try to get more information when we get to the page-by-page review, so I will conclude my statements for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. That was just a comment. We are on page L-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Welcome, (interpretation) all of you. (interpretation ends) Familiar faces. Thank you, Alain and Lori. (interpretation) I would like to

ask the minister and I did hear about it during question period when he stated that there was another audit by the federal government. In making a supplement to one of my colleague's comments, I would like to know where this audit is coming from. Is it the CMHC that wants to see the audit or is it another entity? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for that question. No, we're doing it internally at the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I don't think he understood my question, so I'll ask it in English. (interpretation ends) I do understand that the audit that you mentioned during question period in response to one of the members was that the audit was being conducted. My question to you, really, is this: how was this communicated to the housing corporation from the federal government? Was it from CMHC or from any other minister?

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was not from CMHC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Specifically, I believe it is performance stuff and so on. You indicated that it was not a forensic audit but a management audit. How far a period is that request being made to do that sort of a special audit in my view? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not decided that yet. We haven't met with the auditors. We're going to be doing it this week and once we get the terms of reference, we will let Mr. Curley know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The second point that I'm interested in: was that made through a letter of transmittal to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, if so, was it explicitly clear [there would be] no new funding until something of this kind is done? All of the other forensic audits that were conducted showed proof that there were no illegal activities of any kind. So why would, then, the federal government make it conditional for this unique territory that they're making it conditional? I don't think they would do it to the provinces in my view. So that's why I'm asking whether or not that was made clear in the letter. Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clear it, there was actually no letter; there were just

conversations on it, number one. Number two, we never did a forensic audit on this. That was just an audit the last time it was done. There was no forensic audit ever done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That is good to know. I think our whole cabinet really has to stand up to the federal government that we are a unique territory. Unlike provinces, we don't have all kinds of revenues to convert to public housing or affordable housing. We're pretty much dependent on the federal government to a large extent.

I am grateful, though, that you are looking for partnership possibilities in Nunavut for the small market that we have up here and I appreciate your response quite well. I think we need to continue to stand up to the federal government because one of the MPs was involved in some of the policies of the previous administration. That implicated this administration with the other projects that are still tailoring off, but that's more or less a comment.

My second question really has to do with conservation. I believe we need to step up the energy conservation program. I know that houses are being built with a lot more energy efficient standards, and so on, but I believe, in terms of very high costs of maintaining for homeowners, that there have to be some more initiatives done.

I don't know whether it's safe to have a woodstove as an option or inclusion with an existing heating system because,

talking to my friends, even here in Iqaluit, they tell me they reduce at least one-third or perhaps more of energy costs by using woodstoves as an option in their homes. There was another from my region that told me recently that because of the very cold period, they have been putting their woodstove on occasionally during the day.

Would that be the kind of thing the housing corporation would be looking into and, if not, why not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're always looking for ways of conserving energy. As a matter of fact, I have a woodstove at home, so I know what you're talking about. We've just got to make sure that hopefully what they burn in that woodstove is not a bunch of material from the housing corporation.

>> *Laughter*

Anyway, there is limited, of course, scrap lumber around and that is an issue. I mean you can have a few woodstoves in certain communities, but if everybody had a woodstove, you would never supply it. I know, in the past, I have brought some wood in from down south on sealift, but that's not very economical. That's just kind of nice to have, but it doesn't make sense.

They're making the new houses very energy efficient as they are. They're well insulated, but we've got to balance between cost and actually energy saving when you're constructing them. But I do agree, like with your lighting and all of

these different issues we have, that we should be looking at ways of saving costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I have brought this issue up with the government previously, I haven't had the satisfaction of getting a clear answer on the government's initiative to promote homeownership.

As most of us know, the market for selling and buying in the smaller communities is next to nothing, really. Homeowners practically become victims of circumstances in cases like this. Even though the owners may want to leave the town, they can't really afford to leave the existing home either because nobody wants to buy it. In cases like this, has the housing corporation considered any means to recognize that problem within the system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan, for that question. Yes, that's part of the housing strategy that we're looking at, the homeownership "stragedy" ... strategy.

>> *Laughter*

We're looking at different options to make it more affordable for homeowners to buy homes, which would help the individuals who have homes in the community. Hopefully we can come up with a program that gives more incentives for people to get out of

housing and get into the homeownership programs.

For the small communities, I do understand that there is really no market, such as there is in Iqaluit. We are working on that and hopefully we will come up with a solution for that. The housing corporation could turn around and buy the homes also, but of course, we've got a lack of funds to be doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. (interpretation ends) The Chair recognizes that it has been a long day. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister on the homeownership tragedy he just mentioned.

>> *Laughter*

That is the point I'm trying to make here, Minister Schell. There is really no avenue for homeowners in the communities like Coral Harbour, for example, unless they come up with a means to rent that particular house to maybe a school teacher or that kind of initiative if they leave town.

The point I'm trying to make is that when you plan to leave town, you're almost confined to your own home and become a victim of it simply because the market not being there. I think it's important enough for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to take a very serious look at that.

The only promotion for homeownership is that it seems to work in larger centres. As you know, when it comes to smaller

communities, it's a different story altogether. For that reason, we have seen and I have seen people who had their own homes, selling it back to the housing corporation, as you mentioned earlier. It seems to be the only avenue they have.

I would like to ask the minister and officials to take a good look at this issue because if they continue the trend of promoting homeownership, there's got to be a means to support that initiative as well in a situation where the market is not going to be great. That was just a statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) I know it was just a statement, but did you want to make your own statement? Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand what Mr. Ningeongan is talking about and this is part of our strategy that we're working on. As we get more homeownership in the communities, there is a better chance of selling the units if we make it more attractive for people to get into their own homes. We are seriously looking at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the point raised by my colleague, there are many homeowners here in Iqaluit. Many individuals, however, are not homeowners because it's very expensive to mortgage your own house. You're looking at prices of \$300,000 and beyond. You have to make mortgage payments for a good number

of years and the down payment is necessarily a large sum. Young people who have just started their careers, who are just starting families, or who just recently got a spouse are unable to have their own house. There are many of them here. I just wanted to make that point.

Last year, the housing corporation, with respect to their finance department, was in Arviat and moved to Iqaluit. I don't know whether all the staff had agreed to move here. With the housing corporation finance department managers having moved here, has that been beneficial? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Lori Kimball answer that. That's her department. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we relocated eight positions from Arviat and actually added an additional position to create nine positions. Of those positions, we've got four filled with permanent indeterminate staff and we have four that are casuals right now. We actually are just wrapping up interviews for our SFO position and hope to have that filled very shortly, and then we will be focusing on the clerical positions after that. So we have been hiring from the top down, filling the manager positions and then letting them fill the positions that report to them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. On October 29 of 2010, a former minister of NHC announced the results of the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey. The Nunavut housing survey was designed to provide the corporation with the most current data and determine the exact needs of additional investment into housing for Nunavummiut and provide updated information for the 10-year Nunavut housing action plan.

Can you provide an update on how the NHC is using the survey results to secure additional funding from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've got the numbers of the housing units that are required for the communities. We have met with NTI and we're working on the policy. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ell: Any idea when that will be made available to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still working on it. We haven't got it finished yet, so I can't actually give her an exact time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government stated previously and the minister just stated that the housing strategy was in place in their forecast review for housing in the year 2005 and it was also stated that they will no longer provide public housing in Iqaluit after five years. Five years have lapsed.

In Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, for the last ten years, it was indicated that no public housing would be provided. Here in NHC's 2012-15 business plan, they will further review the staff housing policy. They have to look at a number of options for government staff housing in the future and to promote homeownership amongst employees. Is the government going to make changes to staff housing policy as alluded to in 2005?

When is this strategy, in English, (interpretation ends) the GN's Comprehensive Long-term Housing Strategy, (interpretation) be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's basically a government strategy that we are working on. We're working with all the different departments and looking at all the different sectors of housing. We're looking at staff housing, homeownership, every other possibility, and it's an ongoing thing. We haven't determined anything yet in regard to whether we're going to eliminate staff

housing in Iqaluit. It's still in discussion stages and once we get it completed, we will let the committee members know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. The NHC's 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its 2011-12 priorities to "Adopt and implement a revised Rent Scale and guidelines." The status indicates that "Initial consultation and analysis of findings has been completed. Options, along with their financial impact, are being prepared for 2012-2013. These options aim to reduce disincentives to employment and to support the goals of poverty reduction and other social programs."

Can you provide information on the findings of this rent scale review, and who was included in the consultation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still working on the rent scale and we are reviewing it with all different agencies. We can't really reveal anything on it until it has gone through cabinet and through the board of directors at the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During last year's appearance before the standing committee, the NHC and

officials indicated that the NHC would be working with the federal government to secure additional funding to address homelessness in Nunavut. To date, has the NHC been able to secure additional funding for homelessness in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They actually flew up to Iqaluit yesterday to meet with the president of the housing corporation, but there has been no additional funds allotted as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. Maybe they can take a tour down the beach area.

Your NHC's 2012-15 business plan provides an update on one of its 2011-12 priorities, which is "In collaboration with stakeholders, develop a long-term Homelessness Strategy and a corresponding implementation plan for responding to homelessness across Nunavut." The status indicates that "NHC has developed the new Tunngasugvik (homeless shelter funding) policy." Can you provide information on this new homeless shelter funding, and how much does NHC propose to allocate towards this issue in 2012-13? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for that question. What we're doing with that is we have \$400,000 in funds and we're using existing housing units to accommodate these shelters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start by asking questions about the audit that's upcoming. I know Mr. Curley had asked some questions and I had asked questions in the House. It's nice to know that you found out that CMHC has not asked for the audit to be done before more federal funding would come for the much needed housing we require.

I'm just wondering in terms of what the minister had said, he said it was a conversation with someone. Is this a conversation with a minister or someone with the federal department of housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was a general comment from the federal government in general that they weren't satisfied that we had all of our management in place, but they do also understand that we're working on a lot of the initiatives that the Auditor General came out with because the Auditor General's report came after this other report, which was actually not tabled in the House here until after.

Basically what we're looking at is we're just trying to satisfy all Nunavummiut

who are still asking questions in regard to what happened with the \$110 million, which is the main concern that I have. I think, once we get the report out, we will be able to satisfy everybody that we have done everything we had to in order to get the housing corporation back on track. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. In terms of the funding for this audit, how much is being budgeted for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not determined the terms of reference yet. We're meeting with the auditor this coming week. Once we get the terms of reference put together, they will be giving us a price, and then we will know what the cost is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the funding, where exactly is that funding coming from? Is it coming from within the Nunavut Housing Corporation budget that we're approving today or is a special allocation coming from cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that

question. We can't determine that yet. Once we find out what the amount is, we will have to determine where we're going to take the funds from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had mentioned that he will be meeting, and I believe it is next week, to work out and talk about the terms of reference. In terms of that meeting, I'm assuming that he will be there. Mr. Barriault will be there. Will the federal representatives that he's had conversations with be there as well? If they're the ones who are saying that they need specific answers, to me, for the forensic audit, it has to be very specific. So will they be there to outline what they need and what they require so we can find out the information to report back to them, to get this money that he's talking about that they're holding onto until they're satisfied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they won't be there. This is an initial meeting between the minister, the president of the housing corporation, the board, the chairman of the board, and the auditor. It's not a forensic audit; it's just an audit. Just to clarify, it's not a forensic audit; it's an audit. We're having a pre-meeting there and once we have determined what is required, we will go to the next step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. That was leading to my next question. I was wondering how the new board and the chairman of the board have been involved in this process of going back over all of the issues and coming forward with a decision that an audit was required. Is it a board decision that is directing you to do this or is it something that you directed the board to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a decision by me, the president, and the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that. It does help because, again, one of the things in mind that I'm trying to figure out is, and it's a continuation of some of the conversations we've had over the last couple of years and the assurances we've had from different officials over the last couple of years and different ministers over the last couple of years, that everything is being looked at and everything is under control.

I believe there was, and I think I still have it here somewhere, an announcement made on October 28 of 2011 and all the assurances we were given by the former minister that the board was actually being set up and

would maybe help with proper distribution of funding and align the Nunavut Housing Corporation up with what the Auditor General of Canada was saying. I'm wondering if the minister could explain how much responsibility the board is being given. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an operating board, so they will be involved not in the day to day operation, but they will be involved in the policies, etcetera, and they will be in close contact with the president of the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there was talk when the board was established and when we passed Bill 10 in the House, I've got the *Hansard* here where it talks about strengthening its governance and oversight and strengthening oversight over the corporation's risk management, capacity, and its overall performance and ensure a more comprehensive approach to the corporation's strategic direction.

We approved funding for a board to help with alleviating some of the problems and concerns that were coming up. We were told that this will set everything straight and now we're being told that an audit is needed and then that will set everything straight. I'm just wondering: is that going to be the end of it or is there going to be something else that we will be required to do to set things straight so

that the Nunavut Housing Corporation functions in the manner it is meant to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not saying that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is not operating properly at the present time. All we want to do is go back to the two programs, the housing trust and the incentive program, and make sure, if there were any mistakes made at the time, they won't be made again in regard to the over-expenditures. That's what we're looking at. We're not saying that there aren't things in place at the present time to deal with it. I think the housing corporation is working quite well right now. It's just that we want to correct what had happened so that everybody is aware of what happened and that we can put it to rest once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again thank you for that response. I think that after we passed the bill, actually after we finished with the Auditor General, I had faith. I know there are a lot of hard-working employees.

I haven't asked this question in a while in terms of directors' bonuses and stuff like that, but I'm sure Mr. Barriault gets his, in terms of where the department has gone over the last couple of years, to correct a lot of the problems. When you keep bringing it back to us saying that there is something wrong and it needs to

be fixed, in my mind, that's a red flag for questioning that there is something still not functioning properly. Again, we're getting mixed messages or at least I'm getting mixed messages that everything is running fine, but we need to do this to correct it. I just want some more assurances.

If I was the minister, what I would suggest is take the Auditor General's report with all those checkmarks of things that they were going to do. The Nunavut Housing Corporation had a response and it was a really nice action plan of what the corporation was going to follow up on. I would get the board of directors to sit down and follow through and say, "Did you guys do this" and "Did you guys do that" rather than spend more money on an audit. Maybe that's already happening and we don't know.

I feel like, in some ways, we're actually telling the Nunavut Housing Corporation employees that we don't believe in them by continuing to bring these things up. The question is, when employees try to do their job, whether they're wondering what we're going to ask of them next. I don't know if I'm making my point clear because it's getting so late. I know there was the movement of the auditors from Arviat to Iqaluit. To me, one of the main issues around the Auditor General's concern was the financial management and the recordkeeping.

We have sat through meetings and hours of talk about how everything is in place. To me, it is in place. So I still question why the federal government is asking us to do something else. Maybe the minister could help me understand a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Mr. Minister, will you help him out, please.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try. Basically what we're trying to do is determine what decisions were made in those two programs and if wrong decisions were made, we're not out here to blame anybody. We just want to make sure that that does not happen again.

I'm not saying that we don't have the proper people in place. Of course, we're not different than any other department. We have certain people in certain departments that maybe aren't necessarily qualified to do their job, but we're doing the best we can, we're always looking for new employees, and we're always looking to train people. To say that I'm not confident that we're doing a great job now is not the case.

I just want to straighten out and this is just a fact that this is what they want. I can pretty well assure you that once we do get this audit done, which is not a forensic audit, everybody will be happy and we will be able to carry on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is based around housing and where we're going towards the future. It's just a concern that was brought up with one of the local housing authorities when I was at one of their meetings.

To me, the way that the Nunavut Housing Trust followed through was we

constructed the five-plexes, which dealt with the issue of smaller families starting out with two bedrooms and accommodating that specific need within housing. Now with the SIP houses, through the affordable housing initiative, we move towards larger houses with three bedrooms, I think, that would accommodate larger families.

The specific concern that came up was for the large number of single individuals and providing housing for them. Is there something in the works or is there planning for something to accommodate them? I'm assuming that it would be apartment style for the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at multiplexes because, of course, multiplexes are the cheapest way to build per unit. For example, a five-plex will cost you about \$350,000 a unit and you get a single SIP unit at \$600,000, so you can just about build twice as many for the same price. So we are seriously looking at it. That was the plan originally, to build these single homes, but we're definitely going away from that in order that we can get more housing units for more people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So just for clarification, there are twelve 12-plexes with one single bedroom accommodation for single individuals. I'm not talking about single families,

I'm talking about singles like bachelors and bachelorettes. I think that's the word that I'm looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're looking at all options. We look at the waiting lists as to what's most needed and that's what we will be building for the next phase once we get some more money from the feds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of reporting back to the community and letting them know what to do, what I told him was to make sure that they sent the minutes of the meeting that I attended and send that to Cape Dorset to make them aware, but I had also requested a letter specifically outlining... .

I think there was something like close to 50 individuals in one of my communities that needed single units for people. I think it touched up on the idea, sometimes, that individuals who are maybe in their twenties and thirties, who would like to move out, are living with parents still. So the idea of moving on and starting their own life is kind of difficult at this point. Is that the process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be looking at all

the communities, of course, all 25 communities, and it's based on the need for all 25 communities, not necessarily just one community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question under this department summary. This particular summary talks about additional funding received from different contributions from Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, tenant rentals, and other income.

My question is under tenant rentals. I would think that the minister would be obliged to share the information that I will be seeking because we are talking about a public agency. Now, you can rule me out, Mr. Chairman. What are the total arrears from the tenant rentals? If the minister is obliged to share that with the public, I would imagine so because we are talking again about a public agency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a rough idea and Lori is looking it up exactly, but I think it's around \$19 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. (interpretation ends) \$19 million, I presume, would be for all of Nunavut. Mr. Ningark.

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

that answer. About a year and half ago, I asked a similar question and it was, I think, around \$12 million.

Is the department, with the partnership of the LHOs, endeavouring to collect what it can collect? I'm not asking, you know, that a tenant loses their arm and leg in doing so, but is there effort to try and collect money from the people who owe money to the housing corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was a little out on my figure, but I was pretty close. It's \$19,530,000.

We have hired somebody at the central office here in order to help with the LHOs for collecting the rent and we're trying to do a lot of that here in Iqaluit instead of forcing the TROs to collect the money within the community because we know how tough it is sometimes to try to collect money from your brother, cousin, uncle, or something, and we're trying to do it here.

Also, with the new rent scale, hopefully that will improve the amount of rent that people are going to pay and hopefully that will help them. We're looking at different options of how they can pay it and we're looking at every option we can and trying to get that amount down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Schell. You were out by \$530,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have further questions for the hon. minister and the witnesses. My point is that we have to show the counterparts, in this case, the federal government, that we are trying hard to try and collect money. We have to be in good terms with our partners in Ottawa so that they can begin to become a little more generous, knowing that we are trying hard to keep our accounts up to par. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) I believe that was just a comment. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of quick questions. Earlier, when the minister was being questioned by another member, he mentioned that one way the Nunavut Housing Corporation was looking at obtaining additional public housing was to look to the public-private sector.

I believe there was a similar program years ago known as the rent supp program and I do believe the Nunavut Housing Corporation moved away from that practice back in 1994, if I'm correct, and I believe the reason for discontinuing the rent supp program was because of the added costs of the program to the GN.

What makes your department feel that it is a cost-effective method to build public housing 18 years later? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a limited cost to it, but there's also a limited advantage to go into public housing. Number one is that we can access more houses quickly, but I do agree that it was kind of stopped in '94. I'm not saying we're going that way, but it's one option we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's an option you're planning to look into, when do you anticipate getting to the point of issuing RFPs for our rent supp program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, we would have to create a program and then we would have to put it in the budget cycle. So that would be a few years away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One last question. What other avenues are you looking at to obtain more public housing in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully, with Nunavut residents getting some of these higher paying jobs in the mining sector,

etcetera, a lot more will be able to move into their own homes and that will free up units for public housing. That's what we're looking at and that's why we're trying to seriously look at improving the homeownership programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the money from the Nunavut Housing Trust and SIP units... I'm not exactly sure what they're called. How many houses still need to be built in Nunavut? How many more five-plexes and SIP units have to be built in the communities? I know that in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, the construction is not completed yet, so I would like to know how many are yet to be built. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the 285 units, all of them except for about 10 will be completed by the end of this month and possibly 3 of the 10 will also be completed. The contractor had a bad start in one of the communities in regard to that First Air plane crash where he lost a good part of his crew.

In her particular community, there are seven SIP units. There is an issue with the contractor and it's in the bonding hand right now. We're going to be re-tendering it and it will be completed some time in May. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. There is a condition rating for local housing unit tenants. Does it help the people who are trying to get housing? Does this help tenants who live in substandard units? How does this condition rating help tenants who are trying to get units? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main purpose behind the conditional rating of the units is to determine what work needs to be done on the units, number one, so they can properly plan to fix these. Also, if the conditional rating is down, it reduces the rent that the tenant pays. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I haven't heard of any rents reducing because of the substandard condition of their units. Has there been any lowering of rents? I believe the rent is based on the income the tenant makes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It definitely does go down with the conditional rating of the house and if you have an issue in your community where it hasn't, I would like them to let us know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I believe Gjoa Haven was the second community when there was a housing needs survey done. The new housing hasn't been completed yet. When are these units going to be completed? It is one of the most common questions I hear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are all to be done over a two-year period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Moving on. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and its employment targets for 2012-13. How far away are we from achieving the targets set for 2012-13 and how difficult does it appear to be to achieve them in compliance with Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you count the LHOs at the housing corporation, we're at 70.5 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): I thank the minister for that response. Are we going to be able to reach that target for 2012-13? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The target for the housing corporation is actually 50 percent and if you count the LHOs, we're at 70.5 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here that one of your priorities for 2012-13 is to, in English, (interpretation ends) "Conduct an internal review of the Staff Housing Policy." (interpretation) What action has been taken? We are in 2012. Could you give us an update on compliance with the regulations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for that question. Normally, when we do the staff housing requirements, we do it between HR and the housing corporation. This year, we will be consulting with all of the departments and therefore, it's taking a little longer, so we haven't got that complete yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the review been completed and would you be able to give us an update in the House before the year is over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's still ongoing and once it's complete, we will be able to table it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): With respect to these miscellaneous items, I have stated my wish to make them a priority. This seems to be part and parcel of the 2013-14 operational... (interpretation ends) "Continue to implement action plan resulting from the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing Strategy." (interpretation) With respect to that, will this continue to be a priority? Will you be continuing to provide updates on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We completed the first part, but for the implementation plan, we're working with all the different departments and that's going to take a little longer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. I have no more names

on my list and I will be the last. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to raise part of my previous question. As people start to become private homeowners, that was one of the few programs that was not cut over the last two years in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's cutbacks. In following those actions, especially this winter, and last year as a matter of fact, how many homes were built by private homeowners through this budget? Exactly how many units were built if you look at Nunavut as a territory in its entirety? I would like to hear that.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's about \$3.3 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I assumed it was close to \$4 million. I was actually asking how many units the homeownership funds actually resulted in building. Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the budget for it was \$4.5 million. What I was quoting you was spent as of January of this year. If I remember right, last year, there were 25 homes built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): With respect to the budget, which was about \$4.5 million, I didn't quite get the number of units that were built. Looking at what was approved, can he repeat that, please?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Clarification, please, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That total amount is for home repair, homeownership, and homes actually built, so I don't have the exact amount of the homes that are actually built here. Just hang on a second.

I guess there was no building in homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That is what I thought and I was thinking about how many projects have been approved.

For example, I heard in our community of Rankin Inlet that people are having a lot of problems getting approved for mortgages with all of these materials increasing in cost, including the cost of land, as well as equity leases and the upfront mortgage down payment. Can the minister elaborate? In communities that have markets, such as Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, what is the average cost of the equity leases that will be added to the cost of buying the materials and for leasing the land? Perhaps he could elaborate a bit more on the details of that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The equity leases in the community run anywhere from to \$20,000 to \$75,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I imagine the average cost per equity lease is about \$50,000 to \$60,000 and it seems obvious that there are different costs per community. Can you break down the costs in these open market communities? Some citizens are having difficulty in trying to get a mortgage.

What I'm trying to state here is that private homeownership programs seem to no longer run efficiently. I wonder whether they can massage it to move it forward. Perhaps the minister can explain how he would fix this program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's why we're looking at the long-term home strategy. We're looking for barriers right now that are affecting homeowners from getting their own homes. We're also working with public works and the communities to try to get the costs down on these equity leases. We're looking at all the different options because we do realize that it's a real problem trying to get your own home here because it's very expensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The point I'm making is we now have an artificial market. I mean the prices are just skyrocketing out of the blue.

Will the minister assure this committee that he will undertake to study the market, whether or not, in fact, the actual cost of building homes is reflected by the cost of buildings in markets like here in Iqaluit? I think we have a good track record here to gather the information. I think that's something you should do rather than just calling on an extra audit, in my view.

The money would be better spent to try and figure out exactly how the cost is driving the market. Can the minister undertake to review that and explain a bit how he's going to do it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are part of the study now with CMHC on market factors. Of course, we all know that supply and demand is a big factor, especially in a community like Iqaluit, where there's virtually zero vacancy. So we are working with them on this and we are definitely trying to find a solution to it and to make it more affordable for the average Nunavummiuq to get to own a home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Every day we learn something new; I do. I don't know about the minister.

We now have a new management concept that was just introduced by our friends from the High Arctic. All the action plans that the Auditor General recommended and has recommended for a number of years, including some audit statements that she or he just published not long ago, included very nice action plans.

Will the minister undertake to at least explain that the very nice action plans that the special audit carried out by Deloitte and Touche, as well as the Auditor General's audit of last year, have all been part of the implementation plan and action plan that the housing corporation has adopted, as well from the cabinet side, that the housing corporation establish its governance structure as well as a management team and financial planning team in place? Are they part of the very nice action plans? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) I don't know if I heard a question. Did I? Okay. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they were part of the action plan, but they had limited direction as to what they had to look for. So we are following what their action plan is, but there are other issues out there that they didn't have... . Number one, when the audit, Touche over there... . They had very limited resources. As a matter of fact, they didn't go to a lot of communities. They did it over the phone. They even put

right in their audit that they cannot make an assumption as to what actually happened because they did not go there. So it's a very limited audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think there was a qualifier with the action plans: they have to be very nice action plans.

The point I'm making is that the audits have been made. These are legal and these are professional audits that were conducted by Deloitte & Touche. This was an audit of the corporation compared to the regular annual audit. Why does the minister require another audit when, in fact, he has no transmittal from the federal government that they require an audit?

Why don't you just forget about that audit, get on with the job of building houses, and explain to the federal government that the Auditor General has required a specific set of improvements and they all have been complied with and that the proper cost estimating provisions are no longer flawed? They may be very nice, but there are no longer flawed cost estimates.

I believe that is the political position you should take instead of just relying on another audit. Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do remember when the hon. member was the minister of housing and

I asked him a question about the \$110 million and he told me just to forget about it. We, at the housing corporation, are not going to forget about what happened to the \$110 million. Until we get to the bottom of it, we're going to look at every option to find out what actually happened.

It was very limited what Deloitte & Touche had as a reference in what they looked at. They looked at certain particular situations there, but they did not look at everything that had to be looked at. So I am not satisfied with their report. They put right in there that they can't comment on it because they had limited resources to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated earlier that the purpose of the audit was that it was requested by Ottawa and now he is saying that he is not satisfied with what the audit accomplished or recommended for improvement. Who actually requested that the additional audit be carried out and which period of the management years are you going to be auditing? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The general public would like to know what happened to the \$110 million. We are looking at both programs, the Nunavut Housing Trust and SIP units, so that would be from whenever both of those programs started to the end. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, who requested the audit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I requested the audit to the president and to the board of directors in order to clear the air on what happened with the \$110 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am from the old school like my friend right across over there. You made a statement in the House the other day that Ottawa has requested an audit. Did you mislead the House? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't remember saying that the feds requested an audit. All I said was that the feds were not happy with the results of the last audit and they don't think we have all of our situations straightened out. I never, ever said that the feds requested the audit. I said that the feds needed more explanation as to what happened with the \$110 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: When Madam Fraser conducted an audit, what was missing in

her audit with respect to the housing corporation? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She looked at the financial situation of the housing corporation and determined that the money was spent, but she did not determine and that wasn't part of her audit to find out what actually went wrong. Who made the decisions to go to SIP units, number one, at \$600,000 when they had, in their budget, \$275,000 or \$300,000? She didn't look at those issues because that had nothing to do with it. She just made sure that the money was spent and it was not spent illegally, that it was actually spent, but why was it spent was not determined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: With respect to the audit that the minister indicated to the House through question period the other day, you alluded to the fact that Ottawa requested an audit and you also indicated here that by virtue of discussions with Ottawa, another audit is needed. Who actually did you discuss that an audit is required with officials from Ottawa? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been known that every time we bring up the issue with housing, it's always said that we haven't got our ducks all in a row. Mr. Speaker, it was nobody in particular, but this issue is

brought up every time we talk to any official from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So will the minister table the terms of reference of the audit to the committee? Thank you.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I definitely will once we have them in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we have been talking about the Office of the Auditor General and whatnot. One of the things that was discussed and one of the things that was supposed to happen was the training and update of program officers and local housing organizations' tenant relations officers. I'm wondering if the minister could tell us how many people have been trained and updated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an ongoing thing. They're trained every year and we don't have an exact amount here, but it's an ongoing process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other things that were happening was the updating of the tenant relations officer manual. Has that project been completed and do all local housing authorities have the new tenant relations officer manual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have all been completed, but they haven't been printed yet and distributed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, these are things that were supposed to be completed in 2009. I was wondering if the minister could explain what the hold-up has been. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to all the other priorities, it has just taken longer than expected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other things that were on the list to do was the updating and a review of the Maintenance Management Program Manual. I'm wondering if we could get an update as to what's

happening with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you. The manuals are going to print right now and they will be distributed shortly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the discussions we have been having this evening they have been based around seeking additional funding. Originally, when funding was received for the Nunavut Housing Trust, I think it was in partnership with NTI. I'm wondering: is the Nunavut Housing Corporation still constantly working with NTI and other partners? I think I've got it here somewhere.

I think ITK and the National Aboriginal Healing Organization just came up with a document that they published about housing for Inuit communities all across the north. So I'm wondering: are you working with those organizations to help lobby more funding, to have a better case to go with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did not work together with them on receiving the funds of the \$100 million or the \$200 million, but we are starting to work together with them on the poverty reduction program and the housing strategy program. We're

starting to work with NTI on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was going to be my next question in terms of the department's work on homelessness. I remember actually seeing Mr. Barriault at one of the poverty reduction summits and I was wondering if you could outline what exactly it is that the corporation is doing in regard to their role in the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Mr. Barriault answer that one. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing corporation is playing an important part in the whole Poverty Reduction Strategy, the public housing rent scale review in particular, and making sure that housing is affordable to the population of Nunavut, as well as removing any barriers that are perceived or otherwise to employment.

As a part of all this work, we are tying the strategies together through the GN Comprehensive Long-term Housing Strategy whereby we are working with all of the government departments and agencies to ensure a holistic approach to meeting all of the needs of Nunavummiut in the long term. That includes as well the homelessness

strategy for the GN, which looks not just at providing buildings and shelters but also prevention of homelessness and assisting people who are homeless to get homes of their own. So it is a transitioning phase to do with that.

We are looking at things from mental health counselling, addictions counselling, provision of food, food security; these are all factors that tie into homelessness. So we can't just look at it from a bricks and mortar type of approach. These strategies are looking at everything from a holistic viewpoint as a government and beyond government of what we can do as communities to address these big issues. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the restructuring that the government has been talking about, is the potential of the homelessness responsibility being put into the big umbrella of social development or social services and being taken away from your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, they're looking at all different kinds of options, but at the present time, there's nothing being decided on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In particular, with this actual document,

if not now, when that was produced by ITK, was the Nunavut Housing Corporation made aware of this or were you providing information to this? It's a pretty interesting document and it definitely outlines all of the different problems and concerns that we talked about all the time when the Nunavut Housing Corporation was before us. I'm just wondering what input was provided by your department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We weren't involved in that article over there, but it's a very interesting article and we are using with our strategy and everything to deal with a lot of the issues in that article. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister had said that he sought board approval for moving forward on the audit that the corporation will be doing. I'm just wondering, in terms of an update for the board, maybe the minister could give us some background on what the board has been doing since its inception in terms of how many meetings they've had and possibly priorities and what direction the minister has given them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far, there has only been

one meeting in January and that was just kind of a get-together and the next major one will be in May, but there will be a teleconference in between that in March here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At these meetings, are records being kept in terms of decisions that are made? Like most boards, do you have a secretary who keeps track of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, records are kept and motions are recorded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the committee members receive a copy of the January meeting minutes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, at the request of the board, once they have the minutes done up and approved there, if they request it, we will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I've just about got to the end of my questions. When I had first heard about one of the key aspects of the Nunavut Housing Trust, I was actually in my role as adult educator. Aside from the much needed housing for people in our communities, it is quite amazing. I know we have received input from well over 100 people in new houses.

As much as we have talked this afternoon about some of the pitfalls that we experienced with the over-commitment, I still think that was definitely a very valuable exercise. I really hope that the federal government will see the specific need that we have and provide us with the needed funding to continue to build more houses because it affects everybody's daily life in terms of overcrowding and different colds that seem to go around and, I think, just the idea of having a place to call your own.

At the same time, in terms of the comments, it's always being said that it's no indication of the effort of all of the hard-working staff at the Nunavut Housing Corporation. In terms of education, I think it's amazing that 70 percent employment is Inuit employment. That's amazing and I think that would be encouraged by all members on the committee.

For the Nunavut Housing Trust, one of the key aspects was the training component and the apprentices. I know I have asked many times in the past and I was hoping to get an update. I'm sure that the housing corporation continues to try and employ as many of these individuals as possible and I'm sure much of the work is seasonal, but if there was a possibility of getting an

update as to who is still in the program and how many apprentices have been successfully completing the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just made that program available to the contractors that were initiating the apprentices. We don't have an update and information on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Schell. I have no more names on my list. As the Chair, I can ask questions. I just have this one question. I know full well that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would do reviews on staff housing as well as public housing, including the homeownership programs. As the Nunavut Housing Corporation stated, they will do all of those reviews.

I was wondering if you have considered or if you can provide support on this. I do want to provide this comment as a suggestion, especially in the smaller communities. According to the policy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, there are individuals who can't access public housing units. That is when following the rules of the Nunavut Housing Corporation or the local housing organization rules. Those individuals living in the communities can't get into social housing because there are eligibility rules.

There are individuals living in the communities who will never get public housing. Even though that's the case, if those individuals don't work for the Nunavut government, they will never get

into staff housing because they don't work for government. In spite of that, they can deny the individual when they apply for homeownership programs to get a mortgage. In the smaller communities, chances are that there are no units for private leasing available. Mr. Ningeongan alluded to the fact that there is no market for private homes in the smaller communities.

I would like to ask a question. What is going to happen to the individuals when they can't access a home? Are you going to include that in your review so that we won't be leaving people homeless all their lives? Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was part of the needs survey that we did. There are like 3,580 new homes required just to bring it up to date here and we're looking at all options. We definitely want to see as many people in public housing as possible and we're working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will leave it at that. Let us move forward. We are currently on page L-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$157,382,000. (interpretation) Mr. Curley, did you have your hand up? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Minister, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased with all the good questions and hopefully I gave mostly good answers there. Hopefully we can work together and lobby the federal government for more housing units in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

We will continue. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice to make his opening comments. Mr. Shewchuk.

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the Department of Justice's main estimates for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

A total amount of \$92,085,000 is being allocated for the operations of the Department of Justice in the coming year. This number represents a \$1,409,000 increase from the previous fiscal year. The increase is attributed to eight new staff in the Court Services Division and five new staff in the Corrections Division. Additional staff at courts are needed to address two new judges being appointed in Nunavut and growth at corrections is attributable to the opening of the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility.

Last year, the original main estimate for the RCMP was \$27,317,000. However, an FMB submission was made for an additional \$2,289,000 by the RCMP to cover operational overages. In an effort to avoid having to approach FMB again, the department's 2012-13 estimates contain the same total amount the RCMP was given in 2011-12 of \$29,606,000.

Our Court Services Division will be making arrangements to accommodate new staff and new judges and our Corrections Division will be focusing on developing solutions for the overcrowding and infrastructure issues identified at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

The department believes that the addition of new personnel will help us move forward with the objectives outlined in the business plan in improving the administration of justice and public safety for all Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer the questions of the committee. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Do you have witnesses to bring to the table?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have with me Acting Deputy Minister Norman Tarnow and to my left, I have the Director of Corporate Services, Christine Bens. Also, Mr. Chairman, in the Gallery here, we have J.P. Deroy, the Director of Corrections, and Rebekah Williams, the ADM of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have comments. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2012-13 main estimates and 2012-15 business plan of the Department of Justice.

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

The standing committee notes that the department's organizational structure remains unchanged from 2011-12. Its proposed 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget of \$92,085,000 has increased by approximately 4.2 percent since the introduction of the department's 2011-12 main estimates.

The standing committee also notes that the total number of positions in the department has increased from 267.0 PYs in 2010-11 to 330.0 PYs in 2012-13. Members recognize that this increase is primarily a consequence of the opening of the new correctional facility in Rankin Inlet and an increase in the number of staff in the Court Services and Community Corrections divisions.

Mr. Chairman, given the nature of Department of Justice's mandate, it is important that the department set an example for the government with respect to meeting its statutory requirements for the tabling of annual reports, especially reports that are of significant interest to the public. These include annual reports under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, the *Human Rights Act*, and the *Liquor Act*. In a number of cases, the annual reports under these pieces of legislation are years overdue. The standing committee looks forward to such annual reports being tabled in a timelier manner.

In 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011, No. 3*. This contained \$2.5 million in supplementary funding to address the Legal Services Board's "projected year-end budget shortfall." The department's proposed business plan indicates that the amount of annual funding provided to the Legal Services Board has increased from \$5,807,000 in 2010-11 to \$8,307,000 in 2012-13.

The standing committee applauds the minister's efforts to work with his provincial and territorial counterparts to lobby the federal government to fund a greater proportion of the costs of

criminal and civil legal aid and notes the contents of the October 15, 2010 and January 26, 2012 communiqués issued by federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of justice concerning this issue.

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year are to "Investigate independent society status for LSB" and to "Conduct a comprehensive structural/operational review" of its operations and financial protocols.

The standing committee also notes that one of the department's priorities for 2012-13 is to complete a review of the Human Rights Tribunal's "systems and procedures to ensure that the people of Nunavut are utilizing the services of the Tribunal."

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly have frequently expressed concern and frustration that the final reports produced by such reviews are not tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner. The standing committee urges the minister to ensure that these items are tabled in the House in a timely manner so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly have the opportunity to consider their conclusions and recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, the *Tamapta* Action Plan states that "During this mandate, the Government of Nunavut will develop a comprehensive Crime Prevention Strategy based on Inuit societal values and involving Nunavummiut in efforts to reduce the need for intervention by the justice system." However, the extent to which progress has been achieved by the

government in developing this strategy is unclear.

On March 9, 2011, the 2010-11 shared directional statement between the GN and the RCMP's "V" Division was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The document included a number of priorities for action in the areas of communication, communities at risk, and crime reduction and prevention.

The standing committee also encourages the minister to resume the practice of regularly tabling in the Legislative Assembly the annual shared directional statement between the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's "V" Division. Members also note that a national conference on northern and remote policing is scheduled to be held later this year in the Yukon. Members look forward to reviewing the results of this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, committee members have raised the ongoing issue of communication difficulties between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the public whom it serves. Members note that section 3 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that organizations shall communicate with the public in the Inuit language when delivering essential services, such as "emergency, rescue or similarly urgent services." The standing committee encourages the minister to work closely with the RCMP to address this issue and supports such initiatives as recruiting bilingual special constables into communities.

The standing committee supports efforts to strengthen the working relationship

between the government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information-sharing initiatives that are intended to combat the illegal sale of alcohol by bootleggers. The standing committee also encourages the minister to review the idea of introducing civil forfeiture legislation to address the issue of assets acquired through the proceeds of crime.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2012-13 is to "Obtain funding and implement the pilot project for a Healthy Relationships Court in Nunavut." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this initiative, including clarification on such matters as the extent to which its decisions will have the force of law.

An ongoing concern of members has been the issue of probation services in Nunavut. The standing committee notes that the department's proposed business plan indicates that "Community Corrections has been working at establishing a 'stand alone' probation service for Nunavut. Probation services that were formerly handled by Health and Social Services are now being conducted by Community Corrections officers in some communities." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The standing committee notes that two of the department's priorities in 2012-13 are to "Continue hiring, mentoring and training of staff for the new correctional centre in Rankin Inlet and proceed with the operation of the facility" and to "Develop a plan for medium to long-term solution to increase capacity for inmates in Nunavut, including planning

to repatriate all Nunavut inmates housed outside of Nunavut.”

Last year, the standing committee noted with concern that the department’s proposed 2011-14 business plan indicated that “no additional resources have been identified by either Corrections or Community Justice towards the reintegration of offenders after incarceration.”

The standing committee is also aware of the concerns that have been expressed regarding the impact of new federal crime legislation on provincial and territorial corrections systems.

In June of 2009, the Department of Justice issued a request for proposals for an evaluation of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. A report was subsequently prepared by the Genesis Group. This report made a number of recommendations. The department’s proposed business plan indicates that one of its priorities in 2012-13 is to “develop policy and procedures for implementing *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (FAIA) practices including the enforcement of the Orders available under the Act.”

The standing committee also notes that the department’s proposed business plan indicates that two of its priorities in 2012-13 are to “review the scope of work currently being conducted by Community Justice Committees” and to “Assist Justice Committees to increase their ability to receive more cases diverted from the formal criminal justice system.”

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members

may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s been a long day for everybody, so I would make a motion at this time to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

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. Ningark. 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. Just a reminder of two meetings tomorrow morning; at nine o'clock, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts in the Nanuq Boardroom, followed by, in the same room, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at half past ten.

Orders of the Day for March 7:

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 28
- Bill 29
- 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. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:03*

Appendix – March 6, 2012

Return to Written Question 011 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut Expenditures on Overtime Pay for Indeterminate, Term, and Casual Employees

Asked by: Ron Elliott, MLA (Quttiktuq)

Asked of: Hon. Keith Peterson, Minister of Finance

Date: February 23, 2012

Question:

1. Expressing the data in a comparable format to that which was provided by the Department of Finance in its Return to Written Question 15 – 2(2), what were the Government of Nunavut's expenditures on overtime pay for indeterminate, term, and casual employees during the 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 (to date) fiscal years for each of its departments and Crown agencies?

Response:

Please find attached the government's response in the format requested. I would note that term employees are included with the reporting for indeterminate employees.

Government of Nunavut
Overtime
April 1, 2009 - February 24, 2012

	Executive & Intergov. Affairs	Finance	Human Resources	Justice	Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	Education	Health and Social Services
April 1st, 2009 - March 31 2010							
Casual	\$23,762.58	\$54,523.89	\$130,279.76	\$227,227.73	\$8,211.58	\$22,734.07	\$3,256,792.89
Permanent	\$29,198.11	\$257,233.47	\$103,769.90	\$603,251.70	\$74,668.99	\$202,494.10	\$5,920,484.95
Total	\$52,960.69	\$311,757.36	\$234,049.66	\$830,479.43	\$82,880.57	\$225,228.17	\$9,177,277.84
April 1st, 2010 - March 31 2011							
Casual	\$8,144.22	\$53,741.12	\$6,674.27	\$611,689.18	\$1,795.32	\$18,081.98	\$4,990,621.05
Permanent	\$32,057.72	\$217,624.95	\$16,567.29	\$745,035.36	\$40,964.86	\$171,583.59	\$7,290,514.92
Total	\$40,201.94	\$271,366.07	\$23,241.56	\$1,356,724.54	\$42,760.18	\$189,665.57	\$12,281,135.97
April 1st, 2011 - Current							
Casual	\$4,677.24	\$24,784.10	\$3,435.84	\$439,871.68	\$14,337.90	\$37,720.01	\$4,615,925.95
Permanent	\$9,616.37	\$93,071.32	\$15,636.33	\$904,462.63	\$23,159.52	\$133,895.26	\$5,647,111.16
Total	\$14,293.61	\$117,855.42	\$19,072.17	\$1,344,334.31	\$37,497.42	\$171,615.27	\$10,263,037.11
Grand Total	\$107,456.24	\$700,978.85	\$276,363.39	\$3,531,538.28	\$163,138.17	\$586,509.01	\$31,721,450.92

	Environment	Comm. and Government Services	Economic Dev. & Trans.	Petroleum Products	NBCC	Nunavut Arctic College	Nunavut Housing Corp.	Qulliq Energy Corporation
April 1st, 2009 - March 31 2010								
Casual	\$11,994.44	\$335,011.53	\$41,451.76	\$63,716.28	\$1,320.92	\$56,135.13	\$20,558.44	\$237,718.81
Permanent	\$170,653.35	\$1,378,924.06	\$238,286.06	\$230,014.34	\$25,459.03	\$289,235.96	\$357,058.05	\$2,589,871.68
Total	\$182,647.79	\$1,713,935.59	\$279,737.82	\$293,730.62	\$26,779.95	\$345,371.09	\$377,616.49	\$2,827,590.49
April 1st, 2010 - March 31 2011								
Casual	\$30,564.10	\$494,050.90	\$34,629.36	\$66,333.05	\$5,913.99	\$50,080.91	\$14,073.24	\$332,015.27
Permanent	\$145,697.43	\$1,318,427.18	\$246,995.81	\$170,143.64	\$29,653.90	\$252,640.43	\$327,734.70	\$3,233,431.48
Total	\$176,261.53	\$1,812,478.08	\$281,625.17	\$236,476.69	\$35,567.89	\$302,721.34	\$341,807.94	\$3,565,446.75
April 1st, 2011 - Current								
Casual	\$22,177.75	\$417,539.17	\$17,363.03	\$15,201.35	\$850.22	\$39,336.32	\$3,238.33	\$183,788.69
Permanent	\$127,442.71	\$662,854.43	\$155,603.34	\$252,987.45	\$21,957.84	\$144,620.40	\$315,179.92	\$2,166,281.74
Total	\$149,620.46	\$1,080,393.60	\$172,966.37	\$268,188.80	\$22,808.06	\$183,956.72	\$318,418.25	\$2,350,070.43
Grand Total	\$508,529.78	\$4,606,807.27	\$734,329.36	\$798,396.11	\$85,155.90	\$832,049.15	\$1,037,842.68	\$8,743,107.67

	Legal Services Board	Liquor Licensing Board	Liquor Commission	Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit	Human Rights Tribunal	Labour Standards Board	Nunavut Status of Women Council	Nunavut Development Corporation	Grand Total
April 1st, 2009 - March 31 2010									
Casual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,262.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,492,702.69
Permanent	\$10,323.42	\$0.00	\$19,616.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,076.56	\$0.00	\$12,510,619.77
Total	\$10,323.42	\$0.00	\$20,878.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,076.56	\$0.00	\$17,003,322.46
April 1st, 2010 - March 31 2011									
Casual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,415.31	\$1,439.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,722,262.54
Permanent	\$15,293.80	\$0.00	\$67,563.80	\$5,010.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,539.28	\$0.00	\$14,338,480.51
Total	\$15,293.80	\$0.00	\$69,979.11	\$6,449.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,539.28	\$0.00	\$21,060,743.05
April 1st, 2011 - Current									
Casual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,019.96	\$6,028.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,850,296.48
Permanent	\$101,640.62	\$0.00	\$29,700.18	\$6,038.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,811,259.86
Total	\$101,640.62	\$0.00	\$33,720.14	\$12,067.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,661,556.34
Grand Total	\$127,257.84	\$0.00	\$124,578.17	\$18,517.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,615.84	\$0.00	\$54,725,621.85