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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
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Minister responsible for Immigration*

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(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Environment; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Iqaluit West)

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Minister responsible for Homelessness;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 14, 2013

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable 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, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo):

Qujannamiik, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Curley to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 261 – 3(3): Polar Bear – CITES Vote**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River and all Nunavummiut. Good morning, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, as all members have now heard, our extensive efforts over the past

months have yielded very positive results. The United States' proposal to ban trade in polar bear parts was once again defeated at the recent meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The United States and some alleged "environmental" organizations are calling this decision a defeat for polar bear conservation. Nothing could be further from the truth. All that was defeated was an attempt by the United States to manipulate the CITES process and force the up-listing of a species that does not meet the listing criteria. They tried to use their international influence to force other nations to support their misguided efforts, but clearly the nations of the world recognized this and did not stand for it. Rather than a defeat for polar bear conservation, this was a victory for the integrity of CITES.

Mr. Speaker, polar bears remain an abundant, well-managed species that are not threatened by trade. Future concerns with polar bears relate to predicted reductions in the quantity and quality of sea ice habitat as a potential result of climate change. It is unfortunate that the United States decided to distract the world's attention from the real issue of climate change by pointing the finger at Inuit harvesting.

In Nunavut, harvesting has always been part of the wildlife management equation. For Inuit, harvesting is a central part of our cultural identity and our ability to provide for ourselves and our families, and we will continue to sustainably harvest polar bears. Thanks to the results of this vote, we will also

continue to be able to benefit from the sale of the by-products of those bears.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the Government of Canada, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the World Wildlife Fund, and the many others who contributed their time, efforts, knowledge, and resources to inform and educate the nations of the world of the truth about our successful wildlife co-management system.

I would also like to thank MLA Tagak Curley for accompanying me to Thailand and for speaking so eloquently during our intervention opposing the up-listing.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut and all of our partners in wildlife co-management will continue to work together to ensure the sustainable management of polar bears. Looking into the future, we will continue to build on our successful collaborative co-management system, working toward a shared vision of sustainable polar bear populations for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Minister's Statement 262 – 3(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Cultural Immersion Day Directives

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Iqaluit West. Mr.

Speaker, as Minister of the Department of Human Resources, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to announce the implementation of the new *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Cultural Immersion Day directives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the *Tamapta* Mandate began with Inuit societal values as the guiding principles. The values reflect the words of advice from our elders who learned these values from their elders before them. We have always been committed to follow these principles in our efforts to make our government and the programs and services we offer more responsive to the people we serve.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in 2011, staff from our department met with Inuit representative organizations and groups to identify their priorities and how we could best meet their needs. Overwhelmingly expressed was their desire to create a workplace that reflected Inuit culture and Inuit societal values.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in cooperation, we worked with Culture and Heritage to develop two new directives. Extensive consultation was done through Tuttarviit and interdepartmentally to ensure the directives would seamlessly integrate with our operations across the GN.

The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* directive gives direction and examples on how to apply the Inuit societal values in everyday work situations. This includes encouraging your team members to grow to their greatest potential and know the value of their contribution to the public service. The values also speak to

ensuring meetings produce results through the respectful inclusion of the contribution of all present.

Cultural immersion days, referred through our history of governance as IQ days, are given definition through a new directive. Cultural immersion days provide an opportunity to learn and practise Inuit culture and societal values. Cultural immersion days are important opportunities for cross-cultural sharing. Stronger teams can be achieved and new knowledge obtained.

The elders provide the stories to the natural experience of living where harmony with the land is achieved. We will continue to implement and embrace Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in the workplace. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 263 – 3(3):
Celebrating French Language in
Nunavut: Les Rendez-vous de la
Francophonie 2013**

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From March 8 to 24, 9.5 million francophones and francophiles from across Canada will celebrate French language and culture as part of the 15th edition of *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* under the theme “*La Joie de Vivre*,” or something like that.

>>Laughter

In Iqaluit, *l'Association des francophones du Nunavut* (the Francophone Association) was awarded nearly \$49,958 to host a series of cultural and artistic community events over the next 17 days.

The Department of Culture and Heritage is a proud partner of this year's programming as part of our overall mandate to support the vitality of the French language community of Nunavut. *Oui, oui, je vis ma francophonie au Nunavut! Merci Monsieur le Présidente.* Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: *Beinvenue Monsieur Minister. Felicitación!* Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 264 – 3(3):
Changes to Nunavut's Public
Housing Rent Scale**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to your attention the recently announced changes to Nunavut's public housing rent scale.

Mr. Speaker, as mandated under *Tamapta* and designed to support the goals of poverty reduction, changes to the Public Housing program reduce disincentives to work and will increase the self-reliance and well-being of Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, the changes to the public housing rent scale are the result of community consultations, including the poverty reduction round tables, undertaken in collaboration with

the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to highlight some of these fundamental changes. Under the new public housing rent scale, rent calculations will be based solely on the income of two primary leaseholders and on income brackets similar to that of the federal income tax structure.

Though many of Nunavummiut will see their rent decrease, annual rent increases among higher income public housing tenants will be limited to 25 percent of the new rent assessed until the rent assessed total is reached. This will allow rent increases to take effect over several years and will be less of a financial burden to our tenants.

These changes will allow for fairer calculation of rents for tenants and make the administration of the Public Housing program more manageable for our local housing organizations. Further, they will create economic spin-offs to the community and reduce the social burden, as tenants can accumulate wealth and advance in their field of employment. Rather than being a disincentive to work, this will become an enabler.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will ensure a smooth transition to the new rent scale that will come into effect in the fall of this year and fit with the established annual rent assessment cycle. This will allow for an appropriate amount of time to inform tenants, update the rent scale software, and to ensure adequate training for local housing organizations and Nunavut Housing Corporation District staff.

Mr. Speaker, the long-term result of these changes is one where there is greater workforce participation, reduced reliance on Government of Nunavut social programs, such as income support, resulting in lowered costs to the Government of Nunavut and greater economic prosperity and social well-being of our people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 437 – 3(3): Repulse Bay Housing Needs

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Steve Mapsalak and Saata Kidlapik. I was given a Member's Statement to read in the House for today in regard to Repulse Bay housing needs. I rise this morning to speak briefly about housing needs in Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Repulse Bay is one of the fastest-growing communities in Nunavut. Information provided to me by the local housing organization indicates that there are dozens of families and individuals on the waiting list for public housing. This waiting list continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to give serious consideration to the needs of Repulse Bay when the corporation makes

decisions about where to construct new housing units.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 438 – 3(3):
Nutrition Month**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the month of March as Nutrition Month.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues will know very well, I believe that nutrition is a key factor in the health of our territory, our communities, and the residents who live here and who we represent.

Mr. Speaker, in considering nutrition, we are not just talking about food. We are talking about access to food, choices about the kinds of food we buy, adequate resources to buy food, and foods that are healthy and safe to eat.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at length about the federal government's introduction and management of its Nutrition North Canada Program. I have noted that this same federal government has chosen not to introduce and manage programs relating to the consumption of sodium, energy drinks, and trans-fats.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to each and every one of us to make the best nutritional choices that we can. The month of March is a time to raise awareness of activities to improve our awareness of

nutrition issues and the choices we make.

Mr. Speaker as an example of a nutrition month initiative, I would like to draw your attention to Country Food Day on March 29. Challenge yourself to prepare a healthy, balanced meal with country food.

Another initiative, Mr. Speaker, is one proposed by the Dieticians of Canada called "Best Food Forward: Plan Shop Cook Enjoy." Recognizing the overwhelming choices faced by consumers when grocery shopping and some of the less healthy temptations faced in the grocery store, this association calls attention to some basic pointers for eating nutritiously.

According to a recent poll, only 37 percent of Canadians plan meals in advance and only 58 percent always or very often cook a balanced meal for themselves and their family. 52 percent of Canadians always or very often read the nutrition label on a product while 11 percent never or rarely read them.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics demonstrate that we can do more to improve the choices we can make for the best possible nutrition for ourselves and our families. We can each make an effort to recognize Nutrition Month and take steps forward to improve the nutritional status of our residents, our communities, and our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 439 – 3(3):
Homelessness across Nunavut**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Nattilik and my grandchildren. I love them. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of homelessness, which is becoming a growing concern across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on February 26, the Minister responsible for Homelessness made a statement in which she indicated that more than 1,200 Nunavutmiut are in need of housing. While this figure may seem high, I believe that it does not come close to reflecting the true state of homelessness across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, when a mother is homeless, she does not just need to find a place for herself to live but also for her children. Many men, when they do not have a home to live in, resort to living in shacks or tents or cabins. This may be an option when the weather is mild, but this is a harsh and unforgiving climate. After an extended period of time, these temporary homes can pose added risks to an individual's health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, many people who are homeless drift to larger regional centres and some even end up in cities outside of Nunavut in shelters or on the streets. It seems that the only homeless shelters within Nunavut are those provided for by independent societies with contribution agreements from the government. However, many community-based societies are run by volunteers who burn out and sometimes cannot keep up with the administrative burdens of running a shelter.

Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons for homelessness, but in recent years, the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* has resulted in a significant increase in the number of people with no place to live. In small communities, such as those in my constituency, where there are not enough resources, financial or human, to provide shelter services, this is a growing problem.

I recognize that there are unintended consequences to many well-intentioned initiatives. Family abuse and family violence are very serious concerns. However, it is important that by addressing one problem, we do not simply add to another one. Homelessness is also a serious and growing concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 440 – 3(3):
Potential for Polar Bear Up-listing
under CITES**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Good morning, people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make an additional comment during Members' Statements after the Minister of Environment has made a statement. Due to weather, he didn't come in right away.

The reason why I wanted to make an additional comment about the CITES meeting is because we were finished with our meeting and there were more people talking about the polar bear up-

listing. I would like to thank all the people, especially the Canadian government, as well as our MP Leona Aglukkaq. She did a lot of work on that as well during the 2010 CITES meeting. She is also going to be the Chairperson of the Arctic Council, and we will have to talk about the polar bear while she is the Chairperson of the Arctic Council. I would like to thank Minister Arreak, Minister of Environment, the director, and the Deputy Minister of Environment.

When we were at the meeting, ITK was involved with President Terry Audla and his officials, as well as Inuvialuit and the Government of Nunavut. There were also delegates from the Makivik Corporation who deal with wildlife management, as well as representatives from Nunatsiavut. There were quite a number of youth present as well, including our own conservation officers from Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and the Baffin regions.

However, Mr. Speaker, we now realize that with respect to polar bears and the most recent efforts, we will have to ensure that there is a round table held to debrief all delegates who attended that meeting. The reasoning is that the advocates of climate change are still gung-ho, especially the animal rights activists who will continue to provide false advertising to try to close down the harvest.

There are three more years before this matter can be held to another vote. Due to this reason, we have taken ownership of this issue and discuss the matter to ensure we are all on the same page and that we share the same message. It became quite obvious and it was even a

little shocking as we have quite some difficulty getting countries to support our initiative. Even India, one of the biggest countries, was on the fence.

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

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you.

When the larger countries made their statements regarding the polar bears on the initiative began by the United States, when India was making its position known, it seemed to be on the side of Inuit, but when the vote was cast, this country voted against the Inuit. It caused our delegation some consternation.

However, as we listened in to the discussions, many smaller countries started to side with Inuit as they understood the threat coming from a super power that unilaterally made that decision. Most of these countries have been domineered by these colonial powers and they took the side of the people they considered underdogs. It was with relief that this process eventually ran its course.

There were so many people and organizations that I wanted to thank during the convention, and I also noted that Inuit mesh quite well when they collaborate on an issue, and here I am referring to the bodies I had mentioned earlier, including NTI. NTI is handling many issues as part of its mandate.

While we were at the convention, we needed eyes and ears everywhere to convey the developments. Further, leadership delegates sometimes met separately so this is one area where we would have to try to strengthen our message, especially with the federal government. Our own federal government sometimes forged their own path.

So therefore, I really wanted to thank this individual who spent all of his time at the convention, Mr. Glenn Williams. His support was much appreciated and he was part of the strategic planning group. They had instant action items every time a potential threat emerged against Inuit.

I wanted to thank all of the bodies and people I mentioned today, Mr. Speaker. That concludes my statement.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 568 – 3(3): Repulse Bay Housing Needs

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was making comments earlier about having received information from the local housing association and the Hamlet of Repulse Bay in regard to lack of housing units.

My question is for the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The mission statement states that all of the people of Nunavut need to have adequate housing, live in a safe environment with no concerns, and also that they can get on with their livelihood. The Nunavut Housing Corporation wants to work with the communities because the communities are required to have adequate housing.

We all know that when a house is overcrowded, it is impossible to get a proper education. The house sometimes suffers damage. Residents of Repulse Bay know about this. Therefore, I wanted to ask the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. In Repulse Bay the population is growing and when the new housing units are being built, will Repulse Bay be given priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you for getting to your question, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Akulliq for that question. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey was done. Through that independent survey, there was a need for over 3,580 units. So there is a real need in Nunavut. Any community in Nunavut is no exception, but last year, through the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative, Repulse Bay got 26 units and Kugaaruk did receive 22 units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the hon. minister has given me and Repulse Bay the 26 units. According to information that I received from Repulse Bay, Repulse Bay still needs 53 units and over in order to address the need for housing. It may not be the same as a survey, but it's coming directly from the community. Will the minister seriously consider Repulse Bay to be one of the first communities in Nunavut when the time to construct public housing units is determined by the minister? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for that question. Mr. Speaker, through the assessment process, we evaluate each community. There are a huge number of folks on the waiting list, as the member has indicated. Through the needs assessment process, we prioritize where the units are going to be built. Even with a small budget, we do prioritize from the top down for needs within the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. My second supplementary, I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister be willing to table the survey document that was used to determine the need of housing for all of the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 569 – 3(3): Addressing Homelessness across Nunavut

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement earlier, I addressed the issue of homelessness across Nunavut. It has become clear that one of the unintended consequences of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is a rise in the number of individuals who no longer have a place to live.

Can the minister update this House on whether his department keeps statistics on the number of individuals who are removed from homes under the authority of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and, if so, is any information collected on where these individuals find alternative housing or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for that very important question. In terms of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and the numbers and the statistics that are kept

on it, I don't have that information in front of me right now, but I'm sure, through my officials, that we can look into the questions she's asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am certain that it is not just my constituency which is facing a growth in the number of homeless individuals as a result of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Can the minister indicate whether this issue has been brought to his attention by representatives from other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter has not been brought to my direct attention from other communities, but I do understand the question and I do understand the concern. I think interventions by the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* are going to have consequences on families and affect and contribute to homelessness. I would just like to say, though, that this Act is a very good and useful tool for communities for interventions to take place and to help families out before they're involved in the court system. So it's a very good initiative.

As far as receiving information from the communities, no, I have not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify whether or not the issue of homelessness was ever considered as a result of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That concern and conversation is ongoing all the time. Of course, it's talked about with different committees that are reviewing the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and it is a concern. I think, through dialogue with the Minister of Homelessness and I, we will continue that dialogue and address the issues that arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his responses. (interpretation ends) As I indicated earlier, the communities in my constituency are struggling with this issue. Will the minister commit to visiting the communities in my constituency and work with community members to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will always continue to work on this issue. I can advise the member that my staff will continue to visit communities in the Kitikmeot area and have dialogue. I know that there is some travel that is going to happen in the near future to address all communities' issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 570 – 3(3): Remedies for the Abuse of Income Support

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow community members and Nunavummiut who know me. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, whose department is currently responsible for income support.

Mr. Speaker, I noted from our recent discussions during Committee of the Whole on the proposed 2013-14 budget for the Department of Family Services that the issue of clients abusing their income support benefits is a problem in many communities in Nunavut.

It seems that some individuals manage to convert the food and other items that they buy at the local store with their social assistance payments into money for alcohol, drugs, or gambling. Can the minister indicate how widespread this problem is across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I don't have the statistics for all of Nunavut, so I will take this question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan. Sorry, hang on a second, Johnny.

Sorry, Madam Minister. I heard that you came through the interpretation that you were taking the question as notice. Can you clarify if you were taking that question as notice or not before we proceed? Madam Minister.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will find out more information on the specific question that he asked me and I will provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you for clarifying that. Your first supplementary, then, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that there are different ways that the Income Support Program can provide social assistance payments to clients. Sometimes clients are given a cheque, sometimes they are given vouchers to a local store, and sometimes they are given a Cashlink card that they can use to purchase food and other goods. Can the minister clarify how it is decided which form of payment will be given to a social assistance

recipient? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the process is still the same. The North West Company also issues Visa cards, so they can go through that process as well. I can only say “Cashlink card” in English to be specific. They can be used by the clients. They will continue to use those Cashlink cards at Northern Stores. The income support recipients are not going to be forced to start using Visa cards. It will be optional for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. Programs such as Nunavut’s Income Support Program exist in all provinces and territories across Canada and in many states and countries across the developed world. Some programs use vouchers, some hand out cash, while others use fairly advanced electronic debit cards which keep track of who is spending the money and what they are spending it on. Can the minister explain what different payment systems her department has considered using and why they chose the ones currently being used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t have the statistics on which ones are being used the most and also the one that is most preferred by the income support recipients. It is up to the recipient’s preference. The recipients usually select which system they would like to use. I don’t have the statistics of which is the most popular method. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) I am confident that the majority of income support clients are honest people who appreciate the support that they receive and do their best to feed and care for their families. It is unfortunate that a few individuals abuse and take advantage of a system that is only there to help them. Can the minister indicate what measures her department has taken to reduce the level of abuse of the income support system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question. There are a lot of income support clients who don’t abuse the system. No wonder, it’s only when they require financial assistance that they apply for income support. It is also evident that not everybody uses that system.

We cannot be at the store all the time and we cannot be sure what products they purchase. It is impossible to try to determine unless if we were there to watch them. It is impossible to actually determine what they are buying. Maybe after we review to what extend the clients abuse the system, we can try to come up with solutions. At this time, we cannot be there when they're shopping. (interpretation ends) It's hard to monitor the use of money that income support recipients use in the stores. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aariak. Oral Questions. I apologize for the false start. Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 571 – 3(3): Search and Rescue in Nunavut

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgive you.

>> *Laughter*

Good morning to Coral Harbourmiut, Igluligaarjummiut, and Nunavummiut. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I don't mean to put the minister on the "spot"; however, I want to ask questions regarding the emergency use of the SPOT locator devices. I want to follow up today on some issues related to search and rescue.

Earlier this week, the minister made a statement concerning the SPOT locator devices that have been distributed to communities. For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, can the minister explain the steps that occur between the time that a hunter activates the SPOT

device and the time that local search and rescue authorities are alerted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking of the SPOT, (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, there are three buttons that can be activated. The help button, 911 button, and okay buttons are the three buttons that can be activated.

The one that is activated with the help button goes through email. (interpretation ends) When the help button is pressed, an email message is sent to a BlackBerry, which is being monitored 24/7 by people in our emergency management department in Protective Services. (interpretation) The telephone systems for emergency is monitored 24/7 and will ring every five minutes to the BlackBerry phone system as long as the person who activated that button deactivates the SPOT device.

Our Emergency Management Organization would call search and rescue. If the SPOT activation device was activated in Coral Harbour, they would start working with the community involved upon the activation of the SPOT device. Alternatively, if the person from Coral Harbour happened to be nearer to Repulse Bay, then the EMO would call the search and rescue party in Repulse Bay to conduct the search and also communicate that to the search and rescue society in Coral Harbour. The call for the search would be submitted to the closest community search and rescue

organization based on the location indicated on the device.

My response is taking a while, but if the person pressed the other button on the device, which is the 911 button, the call would be diverted to Texas. They are the main coordinators for this brand. Once the call comes through to the 911 centre in Texas, the call would come from there to the joint search and rescue coordination centre in Trenton, Ontario. They would call that office immediately, actually to three places. They would call the Trenton office, the RCMP headquarters in Iqaluit, and our EMO offices here in Nunavut. The call would be sent out from Texas, and then they would follow up every six hours to see what is happening to rescue the caller who contacted them. Once these three offices are contacted by the Texas coordination office, the search and rescue party in the closest community to the indicated location would be called, if I can call the activation the signal.

Finally, there is a last button indicating that the person is okay and that is the okay button. That signal would be sent via email to the office. They also monitor this situation, but since it isn't an emergency, the reaction isn't as swift. If that call comes through, they can also check up with the EMO office to explain that the okay button was pushed and get an explanation, such as "Our hunters are out of town, but they pressed the okay button," so we will try to ensure we are kept up to date on that particular call as well.

That is how these SPOT devices are set up, the 500 devices that this government has distributed to our communities. With respect to personally owned SPOT

devices, they aren't owned by the government. They have the option to direct their calls to a particular number as well as sending an email to a specified address. Since they are personal, they are set to that person's personal preferences since the government isn't responsible for them.

I hope that is understandable, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. As the minister will recall, concerns have been raised in this House about the process by which after-hours emergency calls to the RCMP are routed through Iqaluit before redirecting the information to local authorities. (interpretation ends) I have recently heard similar concerns being expressed about SPOT locators with respect to alerts now going through Iqaluit before information is transmitted back to local search and rescue personnel. Can the minister indicate if his department's Emergency Management Organization will review this situation in consultation with local search and rescue authorities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, if a call is made to the EMO office or when the phone rings identifying the

call, and an emergency number is given to the case, then it is immediately responded to by the EMO office employees, Mr. Speaker. If a call wasn't responded to, I would want to be notified. Every call is answered for search and rescue events, and all searches are given a number and recorded. So if I was given the information, then I could find out which search was delayed or late, and then we could check to see what reasons caused this delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I brought this up is if there is a delayed reaction by the emergency personnel, in some cases, they might respond the following day.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, most Nunavummiut who are involved with search and rescue are volunteers. The department's most recent annual report on emergency management indicates that the department "initiated a training program through the Municipal Training Organization. During this fiscal year, \$250,000 was allocated for basic, advanced and management-level search and rescue training." Can the minister indicate whether its training programs address the issue of effectively using the SPOT locator system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I would be very keen to find out if he would have available for me an instance or instances where a SPOT device was actually activated and not reacted to until many hours had elapsed. We keep a very close detailed tally on when an activation happened and when it was reacted to. If there is a glitch in that, I would really like to know that so we could solve that issue.

In terms of if there is actual training on how to use the SPOT device, I would have to check our information to see how often, if any, training was provided with that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the minister that I am going on the basis of receiving an email yesterday from my home community of Coral Harbour from one of the search and rescue members.

Can the minister indicate how his department will evaluate the success of its SPOT distribution program?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not question whether the information he asked about was true or not. We just want to be as prompt as possible when responding to these very

important emergency situations, and we would like to make sure that our programs are in place to ensure that response is done immediately.

Mr. Speaker, our SPOT devices have been sent to the communities and there seems to be a growing need for them. The more we speak about it here and the more people find out about how good and efficient they are the more people are taking them out. I think it will be important in the coming months or years to increase the number of devices there are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Question 572 – 3(3): Location of Jet A-1 Fuel Drums in Grise Fiord

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

Yesterday, I tabled photographs in the Legislative Assembly that depicted the location of jet A-1 fuel drums in Grise Fiord. As I noted during my tabling, safety concerns have been raised from the community about their location near the wildlife office, as the drums are not in a secure facility.

There has also been confusion as to which department is responsible for the fuel. Can the minister advise me if his department is in communication with the municipality and the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of CGS to resolve this issue? 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. Chairman. I thank the Member for Quttiktuq for asking the question. The fuel drums are being taken care of by our staff and we're checking to see where they can be relocated. We have informed the Hamlet of Grise Fiord about what we're trying to do. There are millions of drums or old drums that have been moved to Nunavut and we haven't seen anything that is serious, but we're working with the community and government services department and also the local hamlet councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate when the fuel drums will be moved to a more secure location that is protected by berms? 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 fuel drums will be relocated to a more secure location and they will be moved to where they have selected the location. We haven't discussed whether we're going to be putting in berms, but we will be relocating those fuel drums to a selected site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how his department plans to use the fuel that has been delivered to Grise Fiord? 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. We have wildlife and environmental assessments. We're going to use a protocol to deal with that. We're doing research on caribou and those few are going to be used for the research that we're doing around there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some respects, I find it quite alarming because this is the Department of Environment that you would think would be the department most on top of trying to preserve the environment and keep the environment clean, yet how has his department allowed close to, I would say, about fourteen 45-gallon drums of jet A-1 fuel to be delivered to one of our communities across the territory, which there might be more, without having a proper storage space or facility for those drums? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment follows the standard protocol for safe storage of drummed fuel and the use of drums. The fuel will

be removed and positioned to sites where it's requested under research within the coming weeks and the fuel drums are on pallets and strapped, which prevents accidental damage and rusting due to contact with the ground. I think we have very safe storage for our drums up there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 573 – 3(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Cultural Immersion Day

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, to be clear, I will speak in Inuktitut. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

This was discussed yesterday regarding Inuit societal values and the implementation of it within the government system, and whether it is just paying lip service or if it is of importance to the government, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and societal values' goals and objectives. We do not all work for the Government of Nunavut, of course. If we do not ask for information, we do not get it. Can the minister use an example of what these are going to include? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding Inuit societal values and *Inuit*

Qaujimajatuqangit, the government employees can set aside one day for IQ. I think we are all aware of that. IQ day is set aside, but also for other non-government organizations. For example, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated sets aside an IQ day. On that day, some would like to take the day to go out on the land, possibly by boat or snowmobile, or use some type of transportation mode to go out after they have decided how they are going to use that day.

They do not just use it for pleasure, it also teaches about Inuit traditions. For example, some of them have igloo building days, or talk about Inuit traditions and societal values. They can have different discussion and show the Inuit traditions. Those are just some of the examples, and some just stay in their office, but invite the public so that they can interact and promote *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values, invite an elder who will make a presentation to the people who come in. Those are just examples. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that there are people who go out on the land. I think that is part of the problem for some of us. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values are not only for pleasure, it is of hardship also. Regarding IQ days and if they are going to be going out on the land, who participates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't indicate that. They just go for outings and such. I also indicated that they do use it to promote Inuit societal values and IQ days. The department has to make a decision on what kind of a team they would use on that day. There are also people who stay behind. Some people may decide that they would just like to make it a regular day, if they wanted. Nobody is forced to take those IQ days. They can just use it as a regular day and do their normal daily routine.

Yes, it is nice to go out there on an outing. We like going out there on an outing and we can also use that day to teach what kind of clothing would be appropriate on whatever exercise they are using. It is at the discretion of the employees whether they want to participate or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is part of the problem that some of us have. When the government talks about implementing *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* or Inuit societal values, it is at your discretion if you want to participate in the program or not. As my colleague indicated earlier, as long as they show it but it is at the discretion of the employees if they want to participate or not. It is just hurtful. Why do they make it a discretionary program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We cannot force anyone to go on a snowmobile outing, for example, or to go fishing. We cannot force them to participate on those types of outings. They can have many reasons for not wanting to participate, for example, if they have physical problems. There can be many reasons. They may not have the proper clothing.

We cannot force anyone to go on those cultural immersion days, but they can go about it in a different way and learn about the culture in an office, for example. They can invite an elder who can teach them about Inuit culture. The way I understand it, it is beneficial no matter how you use those cultural immersion days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Your final supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. That is what I have been trying to say and that is what we have been trying to say. Even though there are laws, it is always at the discretion of the employee. They might have a reason for not wanting to participate. We all know that, but if it is discretionary and in the Minister's Statement in the directives, it would not be any good. Who is going to be informed about whether the communities are participating in the cultural immersion days? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are going to be going through the department heads, then in turn, they will report to our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 574 – 3(3): Status of Cape Dorset Sewage Lagoon

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

As the minister is aware, Cape Dorset's new sewage lagoon was constructed six years ago. However, this much needed new facility has still not been commissioned and brought into operation. During the 2012 spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the House approved a capital carryover to address problems at the facility, including leaking berms. Can the minister advise the House if these funds were spent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to check and get back to my colleague to see of those specific dollars were spent on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an updated timeline on when the Cape Dorset Sewage Lagoon will start operating and confirm the existence of the report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last I heard about it, the department has confirmed with a dye test that there is a leak in the berm. Arrangements are being made with the contractor to complete the work that was identified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the House if this department will be introducing additional requests for capital carryover spending to address the problems at the Cape Dorset Sewage Lagoon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If our department cannot do the work with existing funds, we will have to find extra money if we need to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the issue of territorial compliance with water licensing requirements in respect to wastewater treatment has been a major issue in a number of communities, including Cape Dorset. At one point, there was talk of the federal government taking us to court.

Can the minister indicate what steps have been taken to ensure that the new Cape Dorset facility will meet all the applicable regulatory requirements, including those of the Nunavut Water Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut, all sewage lagoon sites are very important to us. It is quite expensive to do repairs or work. We're working with Dalhousie University on waste treatment plants and sewage lagoons. It will become operational, but I'm sure that the repair time will take a while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 575 – 3(3): AREVA's Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the

Minister for Mines, the Hon. Minister Taptuna.

With mining and exploration, the employment potential is great and the local economy and private sector will, no doubt, benefit. There are many young adults, hunters, and some who have not had an opportunity to express their views. My constituents who are not in the private sector or business circle have asked me to express their views.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: AREVA's draft environmental impact statement, or DEIS, for the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine is currently undergoing a technical review.

In June of 2012, the Government of Nunavut submitted information requests to AREVA Resources Canada. In the cover letter, the Government of Nunavut said, "There's consensus across the government departments reviewing the draft EIS that the documentation has not met the GN's expectations in terms of level of detail regarding commitments to project design, mitigation, nor analysis." The letter also states that the quality of mapping methods and analyses used by AREVA for studying wildlife and habitat, "Are not sufficient to allow the GN to conduct a technical review of the draft EIS at the moment."

Has the GN reviewed AREVA's response as to information requests and, if so, are AREVA's responses sufficient for the government to conduct a technical review of the draft EIS? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation with

the responsibility for Mines, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, yes, with the sustainable development advisory group that participates in the reviews, we contributed and submitted responses, which is going to be leading up to the May technical meetings in which all interveners have responded to.

Mr. Speaker, all of the Nunavut Impact Review Board proceedings on all the reviews are fully transparent and on public record. Any individual or organization interested in the proceedings of the environmental assessment of the projects, it is all on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege to be able to share information locally and I'm sure the other community members and groups, such as the municipalities or any of those interest groups, especially the youth and young adults, will also entertain to make sure that they review the documents that are transparent.

Mr. Speaker, the draft environmental impact statement for the Kiggavik mine has repeatedly run into issues. AREVA submitted the DEIS in January of 2012, but it failed NIRB's conformity test. AREVA resubmitted in April of 2012, but as the GN's information requests show, this resubmission was still entirely inadequate. Does the government

believe AREVA is taking the environmental review process seriously? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation with the responsibility for Mines, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, AREVA continued to support the regulatory process through the Nunavut Impact Review Board. It is comprehensive, inclusive, and an effective means of conducting environmental assessments on proposed projects.

Mr. Speaker, as the government continues to participate in these reviews on this project and other major projects that are happening within Nunavut, the government asserts its responsibilities within our jurisdictional mandate. It would be through the mining strategy or the uranium policy that was approved last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The environmental impact statement from the communities, just as a concern and to state for the record, there are many projects that are potentially in place, such as exploration, and the impacts will be great, whether it will be pro in terms of stimulus of economy as well as employment as well as con in regard to see whether or not there are adequate resources to ensure

that the environment, such as the animals, are well-protected.

In terms of the Minister of Mines and through the AREVA process, has the GN noted any concern in regard to the impact statement in respect to the caribou calving ground? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation with the responsibility of Mines, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation and Mines, I do not get into the level of detail of the environmental processes.

There are certain protocols that are set within the land claims that determine the outcome of the processes that are out there, whether there is major impact on wildlife or environment. That is to be determined throughout the review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. Before we go on with our orders of the day, I would just like to remind all members and ministers to try and keep your preambles short and responses to the point, as there were a couple of members that did not get an opportunity to ask questions within the allotted time, just out of courtesy for all members to be able to have an opportunity to ask questions.

We will move in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. We will move on to the next item in our orders of the day. 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. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 025 – 3(3): Bill 54, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 54 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. There is a request for unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 54 can be immediately referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none. Bill 54 is therefore, as a result of no nays, moved to Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

Committee Report 026 – 3(3): Bill 56, Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 56, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 56 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a request for a unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 56 can be immediately referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none. As a result, Bill 56 will be immediately referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningark.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 336 – 3(3): Correspondence Regarding Repulse Bay Housing Needs

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a correspondence from Repulse Bay local housing organization concerning Repulse Bay housing needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 337 – 3(3): 2013-2016 Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Tabled Document 338 – 3(3): 2013-2016 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Members, I have two documents that they wish tabled today.

I wish to table the 2013-16 Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as well as the 2013-16 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Enook.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 046 – 3(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 18, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that pursuant to the provision of Rule 3 that when the House concludes its winter 2013 sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 7, 2013.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15 in our *Orders of the Day*. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Teachers Association Act – Notice

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 2013, that Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Teachers Association Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aariak. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 57 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013 – Notice

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 2013, that Bill 57, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Bill 58 – Public Service Act – Notice

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 2013, that Bill 58, *Public Service Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First

Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Bill 59 – Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act – Notice

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 2013, that Bill 59, *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 60 – An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation – Notice

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 2013, that Bill 60, *Annual Reporting Validation (Nunavut Law Foundation Act) An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Minister Shewchuk. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Moving on in our orders of the day. 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 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, and 56 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority granted to me by Motion 44 – 3(3), the

Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a lunch break and report back to start at 1:30. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:41 and Committee resumed at 13:30*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut. We are so glad that you are able to join us while we are sitting. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, and 56. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 50. Once completed, we will continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the review of the following departments: Nunavut Arctic College, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Culture and Heritage, Environment, and the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We will first deal with Bill 50. I would like the Speaker to come to the witness table. Sergeant-at-Arms,

please escort the Speaker to the witness table.

You can proceed any time, Mr. Speaker.

**Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the
Nunavut Elections Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*.

Bill 50 implements the recommendations contained in the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Legislative Assembly.

Bill 50 amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* to formally define “campaigning” and to use that definition wherever possible. The Act will limit campaigning and the making of contributions to persons, groups, and corporations who are resident in Nunavut or who have a legal presence in Nunavut. An exception is allowed for non-resident persons or entities that make good faith personal statements of support for a candidate and general statements on issues of public policy. I would note that these provisions are consistent with decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada concerning campaign practices.

The provisions in the *Nunavut Elections Act* on identifying the sponsor of campaign material are amended to deal with different forms of media and to provide more information to the public about the sponsor of the material. This will enhance the transparency of

campaign practices during general elections and by-elections.

The provisions in the *Nunavut Elections Act* restricting the use of the voters list are amended to allow voter information to be used in an authorized manner during a plebiscite and/or a federal referendum held in Nunavut.

The provisions in the *Nunavut Elections Act* applicable to who may be present during the counting of the ballots are amended to allow additional authorized election personnel to be present.

The provisions in the *Nunavut Elections Act* applicable to how to validly mark a ballot and when to reject a ballot are amended to allow more flexibility in marking ballots. This amendment is consistent with the goal of respecting voter intent and will help to avoid the unnecessary rejection of ballots.

A few minor housekeeping amendments to correct references to nominations and typographical errors are also included in Bill 50.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we proceed with this bill, do you wish to have witnesses with you, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of witnesses that I would like to bring to the witness table, with your permission. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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. Speaker, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, it is with great pleasure today that I have an opportunity to introduce the witnesses who are at the table with me. To my right is Ms. Sandy Kusugak. She is the chief electoral officer for Nunavut. To my left is Mr. Patrick Orr, who is the Legal Counsel for Elections Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome. Are there any general comments regarding the Speaker's opening comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, although we did coverage during our caucus meeting the other day as to who is now allowed to campaign or issue materials promoting or opposing a candidate, my statements in general will be based on sections 2 and 3 of the proposed Act.

I think it is very important that before we vote on the bill that we are fully aware of what the changes are. It means that non-residents will not be able to contribute to a candidate financially. It also means, as I understand it, reading the bill on section 2, which we will get

to the clause [later]... . My point is that the definition included in the bill of "campaign" means to make public statements or promoting a candidate, probably by way of material. Many of the northern communities don't have vendors that produce a lot of campaign material.

If we go down to section 3, in my general assessment of the bill, before we get to the details, it says that those who are not residents are not able to promote or contribute towards that. Even voluntarily, if a vendor contributes, whether it be an airline or printing material or producing buttons, many of them are based outside of Nunavut, outside of the territory, in most cases. So I will be asking specifically, exactly, whether these vendors are prevented if they are directly contracted or asked to produce. Maybe there is a loophole where we can use a middleman to get our campaign material produced.

So I will be asking specific questions when we get to those sections. That will be my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We will be expecting that. Are there any other general comments to the opening comments? If not, please find Bill 50 in your binder. We will go through the clause-by-clause review of the bill. We will now proceed and deal with Bill 50. We will proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 50.

Just before we proceed, I will remind you that if you have your cellphone or other electronic device with you, please turn it off so that we can proceed properly with our work.

Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Election Act*. I don't have the Inuktitut copy. I just got one. *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Election Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On section 2 (1), these are added in alphabetical order and what campaign means. I have a question in that paragraph. It says, "means to make public statements or issue campaign material..." I need clarification on exactly what constitutes campaign materials. Does that include posters? Buttons? It could also mean third party groups. Can they make campaign material?

More specifically, though, if the campaign material could not be produced in the communities, if it is produced outside of Nunavut, does it mean that that campaign material can also be produced outside of the territory? Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The preparation and the purchase of campaign materials, whether it be buttons or pamphlets or anything that is considered a campaign expense and that, would not fall into that category. Any candidate would be free to order those materials from wherever they so choose to order them from. Hopefully that clarifies it for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With the current wording, it is not clear that that may be permitted because we have another clause, clause 3, where it prohibits, even with the current law, that corporations are prevented from making contributions if they don't have a resident business or operation based in Nunavut or interacting with Nunavut. Many of the vendors that do produce those kinds of campaign materials are a one-stop shop down in Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, or Winnipeg.

It is not all that clear that they are allowed to do that because the total bill, the *Nunavut Elections Act*, prohibits corporations for contributing to a candidate. Vendors that produce campaign materials are contributing to an individual's campaign. Where do we find that they are allowed to provide campaign material on behalf of a candidate if it's not clear in the legislation? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that issue. Mr. Chairman, there is a difference between campaigning on behalf of a member or candidate and a candidate purchasing campaign materials.

The purchase of campaign materials and whatever it is can be done from anywhere, whether or not an individual or a company has any ties to Nunavut. The rules around contributing to a campaign are the actual making of a

contribution to an individual candidate's campaign. Those remain the same where it is for individuals who are residents of Nunavut or businesses that are registered in Nunavut or businesses that conduct business within Nunavut.

It is two different issues, contributing towards a campaign and a monetary or in-kind fashion, that would fall under campaign contributions, but campaign expenses, the purchase of materials that a candidate uses in a campaign, or what that is, it's a completely different issue altogether. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Just for clarification then, Mr. Chairman, the definition of the corporation that wishes to issue financial support to a candidate is different than the vendor, that also must be declared an expense and therefore, as a candidate, contributing towards the campaign. Is that covered under the existing law or is it referenced in this bill? We are only at clause 2 of this bill. I need clarification on that so that individuals who may wish to become a candidate fully understand exactly what they are not allowed to do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and make it really clear. An individual who is a candidate in an election can only accept... The rules are regarding campaign financing, which is contributions towards an individual candidate's campaign are limited to residents of Nunavut or businesses that

are registered in Nunavut or businesses that conduct business in Nunavut. That's for contributions towards a campaign.

That's different than the purchase of election materials. If a candidate got a good deal from a company in Japan, he could order buttons from Japan. In all likelihood, they wouldn't get here until the campaign was over, but you can order them from wherever you want. Any kind of campaign material is not considered a contribution towards a campaign. It's a purchased service by a candidate on the expenditure of campaign contributions towards their campaign.

Hopefully that clarifies it for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. If I understand the Speaker and the definition, they're not covered under the category that corporations are prohibited from contributing towards a candidate. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member is referring to vendors providing a service, they do not fall under that category. He is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. They don't have that in the Inuktitut copy. Clause 24 was agreed to. Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 9. Schedule. Do you agree? I am sorry, members. We have different page numbers. I'm looking at the Schedule in English. It's on page 7. Schedule. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 50 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 50 is immediately ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This bill was agreed to by the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, if you want to make any closing remarks. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First off, I would like to thank Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr for all the work that they put into this. As indicated in Ms. Kusugak's annual report following the election, this will help have a smoother general election next fall and iron out some of the things that have come to light as a result of different elections across the county. They clarify things. Hopefully, we will have a smooth general election in the fall.

I would like to thank members for that. I would also like to thank the members for giving me the opportunity to explain the difference between campaign expenses and campaigning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiittauq*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) please follow them out.

At this time, we can continue on with what we left off yesterday. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): We were dealing with the economic development and transportation department. Minister Taptuna, if you can go to the witness table. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Does the committee to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. For the record, Minister Taptuna, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome. We are dealing with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on page K-5. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we left off yesterday, we were talking about Baffin Bay and Davis Strait and how the Department of Economic Development and Transportation was working with the federal government on the strategic environmental assessment.

I believe there was mention yesterday about seismic testing. I know there has been opposition to seismic testing in the past and there is a lot of research that's being done on sandbars and how it affects whales and disorients them and they find whale carcasses washing up on shores and whatnot. I'm wondering: in terms of the department, since this seems to be the department that's working in that area, what's the government's position on that? Are we opposed to the seismic testing and having that happen or how are they working to try and ensure that the sea mammals and all of the fish are not being affected by this type of testing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Seismic testing is the first tangible work that's got to be done for possible petroleum resource exploratory drilling. We don't have the data that indicates that whales wash up on the shore because of seismic testing.

As the process moves along through the regulatory bodies, at the end of the day, it's still the National Energy Board that determines how things are going to be permitted after all the information and data is gathered by all communities, concerned committees, concerned organizations, and through a regulatory process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that. My next question was

actually in regard to the National Energy Board because I figured that's why the testing was going on. I know the timetable has passed in terms of offshore waters and negotiations with the UN in trying to decide how much offshore land the Government of Canada owns. That was part of the reason why they wanted to do it and said that they were working on doing seismic testing in the past.

Now, it seems like it is all about oil and gas exploration. As other members have brought up, there are a lot of concerns in the communities about that. With what happened in the Gulf of Mexico, I don't think any of us here want to see something like that happening in our arctic waters, especially compounded with ice.

It has been explained to me and through the research I have done, it's hard enough finding where the oil might be going, but when you have ice, you don't know where it has gone and then underneath the ice itself, there is a whole bunch of wildlife that is at a microscopic level, which is the start of the food chain. So if oil is on that, it eliminates the start of the food chain, which then, as we know, goes up all the way.

One of the big concerns that are starting to... . There is a lot of talk now with the Lancaster Sound Marine Sanctuary that's happening up in the High Arctic and the energy board. There are different leases that are up there and it seems like the boundaries are coming across where those leases are.

Does the Government of Nunavut actually and will the Government of Nunavut be putting in a position to the energy board as to what should be

happening with exploration of oil and gas in our arctic waters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and respond to that question, although it's not found in the line item here that we're trying to discuss.

Mr. Chairman, that's why there is a regulatory process that takes place and consultations with the communities, organizations, including this government. That's why there is a process that takes place to identify and gather up all the data and concerns that the communities may have. Of course, when it comes to oil and gas, the National Energy Board does that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to disagree with the minister because the line item is actually on page 163. One of the priorities for this year, 2013-14, is to participate with the federal government.

At the same time, I would actually have to argue that we are approving millions of dollars within this department for funding to pay employees and those employees carry out the directives of his department. We are paying people to do this work. It would be nice to know what work we're directing them to do. That's why I'm asking these questions. I know, for the communities of the High Arctic,

these are issues that are in discussion on a daily basis.

I know he keeps speaking about the energy board making the final decisions, but I thought our government would have some type of say in terms of we're told at the community level that consultation goes on and if consultation is being done in the truest sense, everybody is being heard, whether it is a constituent in the community or a mayor or an MLA or even a government department. Are you saying that the federal government is not going to listen to what the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is saying in terms of how we feel as a territory about exploration of oil and gas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, when it comes to seismic testing and offshore projects, we don't have that jurisdiction. We do participate, just like any other resource development, whether it's offshore or Crown land. At the end of the day, the National Energy Board does have the final say in collecting all the data. Of course, we participate in the same level where we put our concerns in as we are mandated within our jurisdiction to deal with community concerns, to look at community concerns, and to gather as much data as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer because that's what I was trying to get at. What are the concerns that the government has with this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fairly early in the community consultations, of course, the officials of the National Energy Board will be doing some community visits and keeping the Government of Nunavut informed on their visits and concerns and issues that they hear out there. As I indicated, we do participate as an intervener for any type of development that is happening out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realized, like you said, that this is just starting, but I would hope that the government will work towards some type of stance as to how it feels about big projects like this happening, especially in the High Arctic, as I had mentioned before, with different ice conditions and the real threat to wildlife and marine mammals in that area.

With that, I wanted to go on to projects that have been going on for quite a while like Agnico-Eagle and AREVA. We seem to have no problem with allowing the mining of uranium, which some countries do oppose and whatnot. Obviously, the government has made its position clear on that by allowing that to happen. I just get a little worried when we start talking about oil and gas and the potential. It seems like sometimes we're

so eager to create a monetary base to be able to move away from a cash-strapped position because of the federal government not providing the funds that we need. I wouldn't want to see us sell out at the expense of the environment.

In terms of the NIRB process, yesterday, we talked about how your department is working on building the capacity within its department or its branch to be able to put more meat, possibly, into some of the NIRB applications. On the back end of a NIRB project, once it is approved... . We've got projects and exploration going on. I have mentioned Canada Coal over the last couple of weeks. NIRB will say that these are the recommendations. You're allowed to store fuel at this place as long as it's following certain recommendations, but it has to meet those qualifications, or sewage has to be treated a certain way. Who follows up on that? Is it a Government of Nunavut responsibility or is it Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's responsibility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the member for that question. I also want to comment on the mining of uranium. There is no mining happening in Nunavut on uranium. There is exploration work that is going through the regulatory process. There is no mining yet.

I feel rather offended by him accusing the government of being onside to these projects for monetary gain. That's not what the government does. We do have Article 12 in the land claims that

evaluates, regulates, and goes through the whole environmental process to make sure that wildlife, environment, and people are protected. At the end of the day, there is a balance that's got to be struck and that is done through a regulatory process that is constituted in the land claims agreement, Article 12.

For a project to go ahead, they need to go to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for project certification with information on who is going to be doing the regulatory work, inspection, and monitoring whatever is happening with a project. It's fairly clear. It's on the website of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, public information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the exploration that's going on, the Government of Nunavut has not provided any stance as to whether the mining of uranium is something that is positive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As I have stated in the House too this morning, there is a process of determining how the project is going to move forward. If all the checks and balances are in tune, NIRB will probably issue a project certificate, but to get to that point, all the information, all the data has to be evaluated and analyzed by experts.

At the end of the day, there is a final hearing, which involves communities. That's one of the great things of Article 12. We're doing an environmental regulatory process. Again, one of things that are great about this is that everything is public. It's on record and it's available for everyone to see. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the other question that I asked earlier that the minister didn't answer was in terms of who is responsible for the environmental standards that are set. Fuel has to be stored a certain way. It has to be in a berm. If there is a spill, there are certain processes to follow. I have gone to the NIRB website. It's very complex as to when they are giving licences, these are the rules. Sometimes it's a book of how they have to follow it.

At the end of the day, when you've got an exploration company up somewhere that's chartered in by helicopter and they land on Ellesmere Island, who is making sure that they are...? Sometimes there are spills that happen across the territory that don't get reported within GN departments. Who monitors that? Is it the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment that has to monitor that or is it the federal government under Aboriginal Affairs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. In Nunavut, there are parcels

of land out there that do belong to Inuit beneficiaries and that's managed through the regional Inuit associations. They do have the responsibility. In waterways, it's DFO. There are also Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada that is responsible for monitoring some of these projects that are on Crown land. This government also, through its Department of Environment, is responsible for certain inspections for projects that do happen on Inuit owned land.

Through all that, Mr. Chairman, these stipulations are in through the proponent before a permit is vetted to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there has been a lot of talk about a balanced approach in terms of the way mining is handled across the territory. At the same time, in terms of following of the regulations, you had mentioned Inuit orgs would have some responsibility, depending on where it is. The Government of Nunavut would have some responsibility. The federal government would have some responsibility. As the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, are you confident that all of these organizations are at a standard and are able to follow their mandate of keeping these regulations up and not having things fall through the cracks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As far as we're concerned, yes, there are also other partners out there that cost share when they're doing these inspections, the Inuit organizations and other federal departments that do cost share to inspect these projects out there, whether it's on Crown land or Inuit owned land.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about balancing a project out there, again I've got to say that that's why it's great that Nunavut has Article 12 and a regulatory process where all the information is gathered by an unbiased organization. The organization is the Nunavut Impact Review Board that makes the final decision whether the project is balanced or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We are on page K-5. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. I, too, want to follow up on the comment on the offshore particularly because you do have a section that indicates that, as well as the minerals and petroleum resources, and promotional division or monitoring activity.

I do believe that Canada has pretty vigorous resource management controls. The federal government currently administers all regulatory processes, including the National Energy Board and the Oil and Gas Division of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Currently, they apply to even all Inuit lands or municipal lands. If it contains oil, these regulations do apply.

There are stipulations in the land claims agreement, even on our own Inuit land and even municipal lands, if they are within municipal, that they comply with the local municipal by-law privileges. It doesn't matter who owns the land, oil and gas regulations of the Indian Affairs and Northern Development currently apply.

My question really has to do with where the current government stands with offshore potential. Does the minister support offshore exploration in Nunavut? That's the first question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the economic development and transportation minister, I do support any sustainable economic activity that happens in Nunavut. It has to be a project that's beneficial to Inuit, to the territory, and in most cases, to Canada. For economic activity to happen here, yes, we do support sustainable development in Nunavut, whether that be mining, forestry, or oil and gas exploration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I hear that the Nunavut government does need revenue. I think mineral development is one area that most Nunavutmiut have experience in and also support in most cases because they do have tremendous impacts not only on the environment. The environment is you really never win anything within those.

In terms of the benefits for mineral development, supply and shipping, and opportunities for employment, I think, is the one that we really depend on for a number of years, mainly because we will never build a manufacturing base up here, even though the market may be the world, but there's nothing to produce up here.

In terms of the offshore, I don't think the minister is really quite right as the Minister of Economic Development. That is not an open licence for shutting down offshore potential in Nunavut because it will never be sustainable for another 100 years as far as I'm concerned. How does the minister feel that offshore oil and gas could be sustainable when we don't even have qualified reserves to ship to the market? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee member is absolutely right. There is no production of oil and gas happening here in Nunavut. For any kind of work pertaining to oil and gas discoveries, exploratory drilling has to take place first and before that even happens, seismic work has to be done. I don't see any exploratory work happening any time soon and if it comes to production, that's 20 to 30 years away yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, that confirms to me that we're a long ways from sustainable development in terms

of oil and gas. Like I indicated in the House the other day, the current reserves that we have in the Arctic, not just Nunavut, including all arctic nations, in the whole world market today and if we started producing oil and gas in those regions, it would last for three years. So in order to build up the supply, it's going to take, as far as I'm concerned, 50 years at least or more.

So I think the best course of action for Nunavut is to be cautious with offshore activities because it was offshore that we experienced in the Gulf of Mexico. Exploration was more than the production that really devastated the whole thing. What would happen in the Arctic if a bust occurs and oil spills, and that kind of thing?

If the minister is prepared to have an open-door policy at least for now, but prepared to shut it off until the proper measures are either invented for Nunavut, for the Arctic, before you open the doors for exploration, would you be prepared to consider that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, as the economic development and transportation minister, I do support any kind of development, but it's not at all cost and that's why we have these regulatory processes within NIRB. I have said that Article 24 is one of the bills of rights within Canada. It's fairly straightforward. It has processes in place. When I talk about development, it's not developing around cost, whether it's oil and gas drilling or mine

development. Everything does have to be balanced out.

When I speak of oil and gas being 20 to 30 years away yet, it is exactly that. There is no infrastructure up here. There are no plants up here. There are no refineries up here. Even if the production of oil and gas starts happening up north, it's not going to be just three years. Maybe the countries will consume all the oil and gas within a three-year period, but it will take us a hundred years to extract that oil and gas. It's not just talking about three years; it's a long project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I disagree with the minister that we have to have a completely open mind on which type of offshore activity should take place. The reason, I think the offshore potential, if there is, is really quite risky. I don't think we can understate that or estimate it. It's so risky in the Arctic that we can afford to keep it closed for another 50 years. It's not going to go away.

I think we need to look at more than just a shovel and pick or whatever to clean up oil spills. I think we can develop a proper or at least take a position as a government that we're not in support of offshore development for oil and gas until proper spill preventative measures are invented for the Arctic. That should be No. 1 in my view.

Would the minister be prepared to also have an open mind that he will consider proper clean-up and oil spill measures, that they be in place, not just for the

offshore but also for the opening of the Northwest Passage? If we're too keen on supporting any business or any exploration of oil and gas, we're going to overlook proper measures that we need to protect the environment. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, there is already a process taking place both with the Arctic Council and Greenland, who has been drilling offshore for the last three years. There is a process that's already happening to look at the potential of oil spills and how to deal with it up in the Arctic.

Mr. Chairman, I have an open-door policy. That's exactly what we have within this government and we do have regulatory systems in place. Our policies are not only just for Nunavut. We do have a lot of regulatory bodies within Canada. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has a lot of that; Transport Canada. There is the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission that oversees nuclear mining and production. So there are a lot of regulatory bodies that make sure that the environment is not hurt and that people are not hurt. It's not like everybody thinks it is. It is an approach to balanced, sustainable development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. If he is comparing Greenland to Nunavut, it's not

comparable. Nunavut has a lot more potential for mineral development and also production for mineral activities, but in Greenland, that doesn't really exist.

In terms of the offshore, maybe the minister can provide something that we might not know. What protection is he talking about that the regulatory processes are fair and protecting any kind of oil spill in the event that they do happen? What would happen? What measures are you talking about in how to protect oil spills in the offshore activity? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As I indicated, there is a process taking place. There are consultations within the Arctic Council to look at this very issue on how to deal with such an oil spill, not just from a approved producing oil well; it's also from the traffic that's out there. Mr. Chairman, the Arctic Council is looking at certain procedures to make into policy where they can be incorporated into the regulatory body. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware of the information sharing the Arctic Council is doing, but they're really not in a position to manage or establish policies for the respective jurisdictions of the nations. That's within Canada.

In Canada, we still don't have any technology that is going to be able to properly clean up and be activated because they are thousands of miles away. Any services that we would need are not based in Nunavut. So it's not convincing a whole lot of people. Our preventative measures to protect in the event of an oil spill are not here. When are they going to be available to protect Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question by the committee member. Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information within the department.

I know that there are ongoing discussions throughout the Arctic, not only here, but in Alaska and Greenland. As the member is well aware, Greenland has been drilling offshore for the last three years. They do have some protocols and procedures that will enable them to deal with any situation that may arise.

At the end of the day, that's why there are community consultations to get all the issues and concerns out there. Once that's evaluated by the National Energy Board, I'm sure recommendations will be coming forward, not just to Nunavut, but to Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We are on page K-5. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like to

just make a brief comment in regard to economic impact. I do have a question in another area on K-5, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) Will you repeat?

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I had asked, with your permission, if I can briefly make a comment in the meantime, but I would like to follow up with another section under K-5. My brief comment has to do with the economic impact and awareness of regulations. On page 162, for the Nunavut Mine Training Program, a \$200,000 contribution will be made in 2013-14.

There were two major fuel spills with contractors in the mining sector, a toxic waste dump, as confirmed by an environmental inspector. A concerned citizen's group raised the matter and forced the clean-up. All of these affect the Baker Lake municipality, the regional Inuit organization, the land claims agreement, and all of the investors. I would encourage stricter mining activities regulations and awareness that would directly impact the economy as well as the environment and livelihood of those in the area. That is a comment in regard to that aspect.

Mr. Chairman, my question has to do with the excellent announcement that the minister made today in regard to the update on Nunavut Carving Stone Deposit Evaluation Program. In the second paragraph of your statement, it reads, "carving stone is culturally and economically important for Nunavut's arts sector, and this work is crucial to ensuring" the reliability of this source.

On page 162, of the priorities for 2012-13, the second bullet, as you indicated, the year 3 project is over and that there are large deposits or extensions of known deposits identified outside of Arctic Bay, Iqaluit, Baker Lake, Pond Inlet, and Kimmirut.

Back to the last paragraph of the member's statement, it reads, "We will work with our partners in the regions to find ways to make these resources available to everyone who earns their livelihood by carving." My question to the hon. minister is: what strategies and plans are in place presently to make these resources available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, to make these deposits accessible for individual carvers out there or community governments is still in works. At this point, we're still trying to determine the extent of the deposits that are out there. We still have one more year to go in the Kitikmeot region to identify deposits that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be exciting news for the community of Baker Lake as well as the other areas that have known to have found some large deposits. In the question of having potential of having quarries there, will local people be hired and, if so, when is the plan to be in place in which a quarry will be done and how

long will the projects last? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, we're still evaluating some of the sizes and quality of the deposits that were located. There are existing deposits that were identified. New discoveries were made. At this point, we're still evaluating the accessibility on how to do that and the quality, and I would say the tonnage and size of the deposits themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response, but the other question that I would like to ask for clarity is: once there's a possibility for the potential of quarrying these, will local people be hired for employment to assist in the quarry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. If I can, with your permission, have my deputy minister respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way stone is quarried today is individuals take their own initiative and

they go out to the quarries and they harvest their own stone.

In the past, we have provided training courses. We have provided some money for the clearing of overburden and things like that. We still have money available to do those sorts of things. If a community proposes to use a quarry site and they came to us as a group and indicated that some preliminary work would be done, we would provide a grant for that work.

We would expect some organization or a group of individuals to take that initiative. At this point, we are not contemplating hiring people to go out and prepare the quarries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. We are on page K-5. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$22,267,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page to K-6. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation.

>>*Laughter*

You have to make sure that I finish the sentence. Total Operation and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$24,899,000. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, in the transportation and motor vehicles section, it is under this as well. For individuals in the community who

are trying to get their driver's licence, who do we direct them to? Is it the GLOs or the MLOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna, who's responding?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like my deputy to respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Taptuna, you have my permission. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The approach has been that the contracts have been with the hamlets to deliver driver's licences. As the GLOs are put into place, the request has been made to the community, "Would you like the GLO to take over the service or would you prefer that the municipal liaison officer continue to do that job?" Up 'til now, we have accepted the communities' position on that on a community-by-community basis. I believe, today, we have six GLOs that are delivering driver's licence services and the rest are continuing to be done by the MLOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In particular, for individuals with disabilities, when they park in specific areas that are set aside for individuals with disabilities, are we, as a territory, providing that type of service to individuals in Nunavut who have disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, that's provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that you would register and you would have to prove that you have a disability. You are given a blue symbol that you put on your window to allow you to park into a certain area. At the same time, is there not documentation either on your licence or that goes with that that you would have to have as proof? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have my deputy minister respond to that in detail. Thank you.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a place on the back of the driver's licence that does identify disabilities, including the need to wear corrective lenses, and that sort of thing. If somebody comes in and requests a disability card to use in their car, they would show that. If it was a more recent problem that had arisen, they would have to convince our agent at the driver's licence issuing establishment that the need is there. If it's established,

then the card is issued. This can happen at any time. It's not just a long-term disability thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those types of certification inter-jurisdictional in terms of if someone from Nunavut is travelling, let's say, in Winnipeg and is in a rented car and wants a parking spot which is closer because of the need, does it work that way where you can actually... ? Is it just Nunavut-specific or does it work in other jurisdictions as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister can respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe they are issued provincially. If I had that problem and I was travelling to Manitoba, I would take my card and I would try it. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of identification for travel, a number of individuals would use their driver's licence as a photo ID, which now has to be done travelling from

community to community and the south. It made me think about it because mine ran out and I got it renewed. I used my driver's licence to check in at the airline. Just out of curiosity, if I show up with this and then say, "I am Ron Elliott," will the ticket counter accept this as photo ID of sorts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that in detail. Thank you.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they won't. Under those circumstances, you better have another piece of photo ID. Sorry and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott, does that clarify it for you?

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does. Thank goodness I have another piece of ID. Otherwise, people would have to put up with me longer in Iqaluit.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, my next question is about the airport project, the P3 project. I believe some of the funds for this branch are covered under that. I was wondering if we could get an update. I think that the last time we were updated for the P3 project, it was different forms had to be

signed and whatnot. I know it could be considered capital, but my understanding again is that there are specific PYs or positions that we're approving funding for. These individuals' job is to watch over that project because it's such a big project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not completely sure about the question, but at this point, as we go through the process leading up to a contract to build the airport, we're now at the point of a request for proposals. The technical part of that would be completed by the end of March, this month.

We have a group of individuals working for the government that are part of the decision-making process as this moves along. We have two people from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, that being the airport manager and our director of finance. In addition to that, we have one person from the Department of Finance and a person from CGS. They're all involved with our consultants and working through this process. At this point, those positions do this as required. It is not a full-time job.

If the question was really what happens after the contract is complete and the contractors operating the airport, there will be a number of people who will be involved in monitoring that the contract is being conformed to. There are penalties that will be placed if the terms and conditions are not met. There are also bonuses that are part of the contract when they exceed their performance. How many people that will be exactly and their job descriptions are not yet complete. We are some time away from somebody else operating the airport, at this point, at least six months away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. I was looking more for an update since this is our first P3 project that we have worked through. As a government, it's nice to stay on top of what's happening. I want to make sure that we stay within budget because I'm starting to feel that every dollar we go over on the airport, it means fewer capital projects for all of the other communities, including smaller communities.

My next question was about the automated weather observation equipment. I think it's a partnership between Nav Canada and our weather observers, which are people who are hired, and contracts that would be taken out of this budget. Could the minister provide an update as to what's happening with that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The weather observation process at Canadian airports is the responsibility of Nav Canada in terms of the government process of putting automated systems into place and they will continue doing that until all of our airports have an automated system. It's my understanding that to date, there are six of them in place. Over the course of the next year or two, they will be putting more in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the Government of Nunavut does not provide any funding in terms of installation or purchase or having to do with the automated weather observations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, this department does not do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So are we going to be phasing out the human aspect of weather observers or are we not going to have individuals in

the airports providing that service?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. They are still going to be CARS operated or live people working in these stations, but as far as we know, there are some automated airports down south, and it's going to be the decision of Nav Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We're on page K-6. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question on this page. While we're reviewing transportation, I want to ask the minister about his announcement of plans for improvement of the roads as well as improving airstrips, as that is a stated goal.

One of the department's priorities listed in the 2013-16 business plan is for future improvements related to reaching this goal. On page 164, it indicates that roads used daily in our communities along with airstrips have been listed as future improvements. Exactly what types of improvements are you talking about completing this year? What types of improvements are discussed here? Can the minister elaborate on the type of improvements they are considering and respond to the members here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll deal with the road question part of it first. At this point, there is only one road in Nunavut that we are responsible for. The rest are all within municipal boundaries and that's the responsibility of the hamlets. The road to Nanisivik and the Nanisivik Airport is still identified as an operational road and we are required to keep it in that condition until we have completed remediation of the Nanisivik Airport. So we will be doing some summer maintenance to keep that road passable and that is the extent of our road activities at this time.

In terms of airports, we do have a plan over a period of years within our capital budget to keep airports safe and in operating condition. We are systematically hoping to upgrade or replace airports as required. I guess this is not the time or place to go into detail on capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe we should not just say "Road Improvement." It should say "Nanisivik Road Improvement" so that we don't get confused about it.

Again, for us Inuit, when we talk about roads, it could be either within or outside municipal boundaries. In English, it says "Community Access Roads." Does that only apply to Nanisivik also? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from the committee member. The Community Access Roads Program is separate from Nanisivik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to get that clarified while we are on the road issue.

In our community, we're going to start looking at how we can go down to the shoreline because our community is surrounded by mountains. The ice is almost inaccessible during this time of the year. We're making improvements, but it's a very slow process. At times, we do get a little bit of funding to make some improvements so that the hunters have easier access to the sea ice, but it's a very slow process and we have not made much advancement. They're making a road quite slowly.

When we start boating this spring, the road is going to make it a lot easier to go down to the shoreline. We can't access the sea ice, even though you can still travel on the land outside of Pangnirtung. Is it possible to use these access road funds for improvements within our community or not? It would

speed up the process of building roads within the community because it's not enough to finish projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we do have a small budget allocated to it and that's the Community Access Roads Program, which is one of the most popular programs in Nunavut. Last year, we had applications in that amounted to over \$1.6 million for a \$500,000 program. Yes, that money can be used for specifics, especially for hunters and fishermen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can we have all that allocation for the next fiscal year, please? Thank you.

>>Laughter

An Hon. Member: You wish.

>>Laughter

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We await the contribution agreement signage. I believe the community has already applied and there is a small amount going to Pangnirtung in the amount of \$35,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Using my discretion as the Chair, we will take a 15-minute break before we move on. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 15:01 and resumed at 15:21*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. We will now continue with page K-6. I give Ms. Ugyuk the floor.

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 when will you table them to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee member can identify the page number, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk, please indicate which page you're asking a question on so that you will get a proper response. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I believe it's on 165, bullet No. 3.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk, for your clarification.

Minister Taptuna, did you find the page number? Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk, please rephrase your question. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (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 when will you table them to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. If I understand her question, I believe she’s just trying to ask if the feasibility studies have been completed. I believe that was her question, if I’m not mistaken. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have that information in front of us, so I’ll have to get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Perhaps we can further assist our witnesses here by indicating the page number related to our questions if we are going to query them about the plans. That way, you will get your responses. That would help because we want proper responses. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question regarding the Community Access Roads Program. It is part and parcel of Mr. Oshutapik’s question.

In Gjoa Haven, we have some steel material that is going to be used to build a bridge across the river. They had acquired those materials using the Community Access Roads Program funds. When are they going to build that bridge? The material has been there for about two or three years now. When is the completion date for that bridge? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost of putting that bridge into place is going to be more than we can cover under the Community Access Roads Program. We’re going to have to put that into the capital plan. We will be doing the research we will have to study this year to determine the cost of building that, and then we will proceed as quickly as we can after that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same subject, in Taloyoak, they have been waiting to put up a floating dock for quite a while. The material has been there for a number of years now. When are they going to complete that floating dock construction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of communities in a similar situation. Again, we are assessing that now. We will attempt to get some of them done this year, where it makes sense and we can afford it. The rest will be done in a year or two. It's going to be based on the degree of difficulty. If it becomes extremely expensive, then it will have to become a capital project. Otherwise, we will attempt to assess and do as much as we can this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you for your responses. I have another question on the same subject regarding building roads to the wharves or docks. I think there was \$80,000 given to Taloyoak so they can build a road to Red Fish Lake and to Nattilik Lake. They

were going to build three access roads to those lakes, but they only built a portion of it. Do you inspect those roads that are funded by the government to see if they have been completed?

As Allan Rumbolt has indicated, (interpretation ends) "The standing committee encourages the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on how the department measures and evaluates the success of its grants and contributions expenditures."

(interpretation) I know there are inadequate funds, but if we are told that we are going to get access roads built, we expect to see them built. We don't want to see partially built roads. Are you going to do any inspections of the projects to see if they are completed or not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, the small amount of money that we have in our access roads program is demanded a lot by the communities. I stated earlier before that the applications that came in last year were in excess of over \$1.6 million. I believe Taloyoak does have an application with our department now for an amount of \$20,000.

The hamlets administer that and they go at their own pace for the program that is available to them. We encourage every hamlet to put in their applications for this access roads program because we see it as an enabler for the boaters, the fishermen, and the harvesters who

usually use these small access roads to get to certain locations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the lines of my colleagues, Mr. Oshutapik as well as Ms. Ugyuk, prior to division from the NWT, an access road was felt by community members as incomplete and Baker Lake will be providing some submission as well to enhance and improve this road and hopefully extend it as to what the initial plan was.

Along the lines, there is also mention from a number of elders, fishermen, and hunters who requested an access road to a popular area named Prince River. This may also apply to CGS because it will be the hamlet that will probably put the submissions in, the process as explained by the hon. minister. In some capacity, the hunters and the fishermen who provide for themselves and others also make ends meet by subsistence hunting as well as selling parts of their catch. Transportation access is an issue, so I'm going to elaborate on that further.

The fact that the community of Baker Lake is also made aware by your responses to my colleagues in the committee here, I wanted to ask that as my colleagues as well as the minister are aware, I have tabled hamlet resolutions. One item was relocation or an improved dock for safety and better accessibility of use by community members. With major contributions from Baker Lake to Nunavut economy-wise as well as enhancing the GDP, as the document is

tabled, Baker Lake has been requesting an improved or relocated dock for safety issues. I wanted to ask the hon. minister whether or not his department has officially documented and noted this request as it was tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, yes, we recognize these things that are of need in each community. For the most part, when we talk about the access funding, the access roads program is a smaller amount. Again, when it comes to docks, we just don't have the funds to disburse out there and start building docks. It's a situation where we are just not able to afford building infrastructure like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: No doubt as well that Baker Lake has made some significant contributions to Nunavut. I think this government, on behalf of Baker Lake, with the help of the Hamlet of Baker Lake, used to be able to approach the federal government for some assistance. That alone is just a comment. We will seek other avenues to pursue this matter to ensure that the needs and requirements of Baker Lake have proper accessibility as well as safety in mind for our hunters.

Mr. Chairman, my question is: in the past, under Transportation, Policy and Planning, as indicated on page 164, there are two bullets and one is indicating as

an objective “To ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in and out of Nunavut and within the territory.” The third bullet there is “To work with the federal government to advance projects to improve roads, airports and small craft harbours.” I believe it would be nice to be able to bridge this need specifically on behalf of Baker Lake that has passed a resolution and also tabled it in the House as well.

With respect to that, I want to ask for the record for those Baker Lakemiut watching and listening: can the minister update the residents of Baker Lake on the airport and terminal improvement project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) This is very close to being a capital issue, but I will let it go. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have that information in front of us and this pertains to capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We’re on page K-6. Mr. Aupaluktuq, I believe you’re done. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. It may be capital, but since it’s in operations of the airports, with respect to Rankin Inlet, I know there was a tremendous amount of airplanes jamming at the airport apron. I know the work is ongoing. Could the minister maybe be able to provide an update on exactly what the status of it is and when the completion might be for improving or enlarging the aircraft parking? It is quite a challenge,

particularly when they’re all landed at the same time. I know the work may be ongoing, but I think it’s important to get an update. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, we’re expecting 2014 for a completion date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, my main reason for this question is that sometimes passengers have to walk from quite a ways when the plane parks on the far side of the tarmac. With some passengers being recent medical patients or the elderly, the distance can be brutal, especially during the cold weather months.

When medical patients are arriving from the southern institution, shouldn’t the minister consider transportation in these cases? I speak about passengers who may be unable to walk or find the distance too far to walk upon arrival. I wonder how these passengers can be provided with better service and I would like to get a response on this issue. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. At this time, there are buses that are available and buses are being used at the apron to move people around

for safety reasons and for folks with some disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I have another question that is specifically not here, but I know that the airports continue to replenish and dispose of motor vehicles and operational equipment throughout the Nunavut territory that operates airports and also a tremendous allowance of new vehicles that we see each fall.

There were many businesses in Nunavut that look to the minister as their representative for support as well as ongoing support. The airports division probably disposes of a tremendous amount of vehicles occasionally. If that is the case, how does that disposal policy work within the airport division of ED&T? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The disposal of government assets are done through another department, that being Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That's why I "preambled" my question that many Nunavutmiut look to you as their representative in cabinet and for support. Even though it's in the other department, collectively, the government must decide

whether or not the policy should be considered for review.

In terms of other jurisdictions, there is a public process which is normally put on the website for Crown asset disposal, for instance, in each province and the federal government. It may be time that we improve on that. Right now, the only disposal that you're accorded mainly is the hamlets and no businesses, groups, or individuals can compete for that. They also have an allowance for new vehicles each year, pretty well.

On that basis, I think the minister should also consider reviewing that part of the policy because you do normally, probably much more actively, use that provision when you are disposing your equipment. Would it be possible to at least consult with your other colleagues in the cabinet? There are groups out there that look to you to improving that part of the need. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We will certainly consider reviewing it. If time permits, we will bring it down to our officials for them to review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,899,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page K-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$61,077,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I want to thank the minister for being here. If you have any closing remarks, I give you the opportunity. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the committee members for their scrutiny and very well put together questions and comments. Mr. Chairman, we're always striving to improve and become more efficient. I appreciate the openness that has been provided here.

Mr. Chairman, I also would like to thank my officials for all their hard work putting all the material together. I know they do have to balance with other departments when it comes to this and I appreciate their help in putting all this together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I thank your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can assist them

so that we can move right to the next department.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. At this time, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk, can go to the witness table to make his opening comments.

(interpretation ends) Minister Shewchuk, you may proceed with your opening comments.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to you and your committee. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the 2013-14 main estimates and business plan for Nunavut Arctic College. I look forward to the opportunity to work together in advancing *Tamapta*, especially as it applies to Nunavut Arctic College.

The main estimates include the base contribution of \$31.8 million, \$3.9 million from tuition fees and other sources and third party revenues of \$8.5 million. The increase in the budget includes NEU salary adjustments and Pathway to Adult Secondary School Graduation (PASS). The main estimates are organized on the basis of our headquarters, the Nunavut Research Institute, and the regional campuses. Our business plan describes how the main estimates are applied in the college's operation.

The *Tamapta* Action Plan sets out two specific goals for Arctic College under

the priority of improving education and training outcomes. "Through Nunavut Arctic College and its partners, we will increase post-secondary opportunities in all occupational categories, from career training to professional education."

Partnerships with government departments, educational institutions, and industry are especially important at Arctic College in meeting these goals. Arctic College continues to build university capacity in Nunavut. The college continues to receive financial support from the Royal Bank of Canada and our Municipal Training Organization, and is working with Grant MacEwan University and the Certified General Accountants Association toward completing the Bachelor of Applied Business Administration. Arctic College is currently seeking federal funding to deliver the Early Childhood Education Certificate across Nunavut.

Arctic College is honoured to include Piqqusilirivvik as a new division which highlights and recognizes the importance of teaching Inuit traditional knowledge and culture. Nunavut Arctic College will ensure that we maintain the intention and mission of Piqqusilirivvik as a place where students will come to understand and learn about Inuit language, values, and culture in a manner that is acceptable and consistent with Inuit culture. We will continue to develop and deliver programs in Clyde River and other satellite sites in order to ensure that we reach as many individuals as possible and contribute to the preservation and use of Inuit traditions in the modern world.

Arctic College continues to expand the delivery of the NTEP program at the community level in partnership with the

Department of Education. Since 2006, 79 individuals have graduated in the communities. Based on the current student enrolments at the community level, in the next two and a half years, there will be 62 new Bachelor of Education graduates from the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. In this partnership with Education, work is also progressing for program development on the middle school teacher training requirements. In adult basic education, the college is fully utilizing federal funding to support the development and enhance delivery of ABE programs in the communities.

Following the establishment of the Nunavut Trades Training Centre (Sanatuliqsarvik), Arctic College has solidified delivery in trades preparation programs and apprentice programs related to construction. Nunavut Arctic College will continue to develop and deliver mine training and heavy equipment training programs as we continue to expand its partnerships with industry and government.

The old training facility in Rankin Inlet will be used as a transition facility until an equipment training centre is completed some time in the future. Currently, Arctic College is finalizing the installation of a new training simulator which will be ready for programming this year.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss Arctic College's 2013-14 main estimates and business plan. This is a critical government investment in reducing "the gap between unemployed people and job opportunities." Workforce development is a continued priority with Nunavut

Arctic College. I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I wanted to ask if you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring two officials to the table.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Do members 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 Shewchuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce to my right the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Mike Shouldice, and to my left, Eric Cornell, Coordinator of Planning and Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. We welcome your officials. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make

opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2013-14 budget of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, the college's total budget is made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding, and revenue from other sources, such as tuition fees. The GN's proposed contribution of \$31,875,000 to the college for 2013-14 is approximately \$5.5 million more than the contribution funding amount approved for 2012-13.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College plays an important role in preparing, training, and qualifying Nunavummiut for our economy, our public service, and our future. The standing committee encourages the college to continue working closely with the government and other partners to identify and access opportunities for training and education with a view to employment opportunities within the territory.

Mr. Chairman, education is a critical and fundamental determinant of the well-being of Nunavummiut. Community learning centres play an important role in the delivery of programs at the community level, enabling community residents to improve their skills, as well as to prepare for opportunities in further education or employment. The standing committee encourages the college to provide ongoing support to adult educators and community economic development officers in order that they can in turn provide the best level of support at the community level. Members also support the growth of technology and distance learning opportunities.

The standing committee strongly supports investments in programs directed towards Inuit language and culture. The standing committee looks forward to initiatives relating to the Inuit Language and Culture Centre concept as well as an increase in course delivery and certification from the Piquusilirivvik Cultural Facility. With the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation, the standing committee further recommends that the college increase programs relating to language services and particularly stresses the need for the development and delivery of interpreter/translator programs and certification.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation) I am now asking the committee members if they have any general comments to Minister Shewchuk's opening comments. Since there are none, we will go to page M-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$31,875,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are we in agreement that Nunavut Arctic College is concluded? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, it wouldn't be fair for the minister if no question was asked.

>> *Laughter*

I could have done it with my opening comments, but I am grateful for the minister, the president, and your officials to appear before us. There is a significant amount of projects right now at \$31 million. This is no small potato anymore, but a very important one, if I may say. We look to our young people to take advantage of it.

I know there are always challenges with every young individual because there are so many choices these days. When we were growing up, we had fewer choices for distraction. I can tell you why, but I think it would be literally better if I didn't. Also, I think we need more support for the young generation to complete their courses, whatever the career field, academically, or even trades. I feel that we need to put more support into retaining them. We spend a lot of money on government for retention so that they stick to their jobs longer.

What do we do with students who may be facing challenges? For instance, their spouses may be addicted to substances. The choices I didn't have when I was a kid growing up. Maybe there are other choices that they do have which I didn't have and I don't want to go through them for obvious reasons. What do we do with kids who may be challenged with sticking out and to complete their courses? Do you have support for them and, if so, what are they? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Curley. I

am glad we got a question because there has been a lot of work put into providing this business plan and the budget for Arctic College and a lot of hard work by all the Arctic College employees across the territory.

I couldn't agree with you more. I think it all stems and starts with the Department of Education providing support to students going through the K-12 system and doing the best job we can in that avenue to have our young people properly educated to move to post-secondary education, which we are responsible for. Even at that point though, we do provide tutoring to young people. We do provide counselling to them if it is needed. We will provide upgrade courses at the college if they need to get into programs.

We are very supportive of young people and we will try and help them in any which way that we can to pursue their education and career development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I thought there wasn't going to be any questions, so I didn't keep time. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. That sounds good. Are they on location? We have seen in government that one is based at the southern end of my region and the other is in Iqaluit, but they're not on site. How can you improve the counsellors or advisors to students so that they do have those services right when they need it mostly? Could that be improved?

Maybe I misunderstood you. I think you need to be a little more specific in

providing that. We do want young people to succeed. Oftentimes, I feel there should be some counselling provided, not just for the students, but members of the family. Many of the young people have spouses and they come in as a unit. If one is suffering with certain substance abuse, even though the one taking the course may not be having that problem, they sometimes end up leaving their career path and return home. So that's what I'm trying to get at. We need more specialized counselling here, not just the one that was invented 50 years ago. I don't know when. Can the minister be more specific on whether or not that is possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the comments of the member. Yes, I think it's something that we can improve and work on. At present, as the member states, it's very true that we provide a lot of the support services in regional centres, but not branched out to communities. I think there are avenues that we can look at, working with the counsellors at the high schools and with our career learning centres. We could provide that support to students who are not going to move from their communities right away into regional centres to the main campuses. That could be explored. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate if you consider improving that. These are confidential in nature, no doubt. Each

student has different types of... I know that some have relationship issues and there are many who do get affected by law enforcement, and so on, even though they're here.

So as a result of that, even if they're here from other communities, elders locally should be involved. There has to definitely be interaction so that they're not just placed with elders that they would have access to speaking to when they were home. When they come here, it's not quite the same, but I know that in Iqaluit here, the elders are tremendously involved in many of the life-changing impacts on young people. I know that when the poverty reduction seminar came into effect, there was a group that involved specializing in helping young people in other forms, not college programs, but other life skill related programs.

I'm trying to encourage you to reach out a bit more, even for students involved here. Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those comments that were made there are going to be taken well and it's something that really gives us a new idea that we can explore. Yes, it is possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that so much because you see the facilities out there and then you also

see some of them that need tremendous help.

In terms of the other Inuit-related or culturally-related courses, I think the most important one is probably the translator program. How are these programs going? From the outside, I'm not too sure whether they are fully utilized as they should. Are they functioning well? I know there are also other life skill related, traditional Inuit college courses going on, but what is the dropout rate, for instance? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that Mr. Curley brought this topic up in training of translators and interpreters, especially because there is a growing and great demand for these types of services to be provided in Nunavut, not only in the government, but across private industry and with Inuit organizations. At present, we do offer the only course in Iqaluit right now. I think there is an intake of maybe four people. There is a challenge in recruiting people to get into the program and that's something that we need to try and work on.

I do have some very good news in this regard, in the demand for these interpreter-translators and the training we are providing, because we did receive a letter from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly that this is a priority not only with the government, but with the legislature too. We have anticipated providing this type of programming and courses. In the year 2014-15, we're going to accelerate that and we're going to incorporate it into

this coming fiscal year, 2013-14. That is our plan to expand this type of training and programming to the other regions across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I appreciate that. I think it will be good to get some of the data on what your target might be. You can promise me wide-open opportunities for students, but unless we specifically say what the plan is that would probably be monitored each year, I'm not 100 percent sure yet whether that would come through. I want to encourage you, though.

Throughout Nunavut, there are many good individuals who could help the government. There are bilingual individuals in each community who are 100 percent better at Inuktitut speaking than I do. You can actually go into the Inuktitut typewriters and produce. Why can't we have a sunset provision and not grandfather them into the business of being able to provide that service?

I know many say that they're only looking for people now to work for the government, translation and documents, as well as consecutively. Unless you have been through the translation courses, you don't qualify. Why is that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, anybody who is interested in getting into these programs, into interpreter/translator, we absolutely

would consider the skills that they already have and we would do that through a prior learning assessment and see what they already have that are equivalencies of any program that we offer and those would be credited and accountable for.

Also, Mr. Curley, I think there are a whole lot of people out there in all of our communities who have the capabilities of being interpreter/translators and they need to be maybe certified or qualified, but they also need to be encouraged to maybe even start their own businesses up to do this type of work because there is such a great need for it. I think that is something that they can access small business loans or loans through ED&T to pursue that type of career and business that would be economically beneficial for them and their families. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I thank the minister for that, but I cannot promise you that would happen. That's your call to certify them, as we did for the nursing professions. We made them legal that they can function as nurses and also practical nurses so that they can operate specific elements of health care as registered nurses in communities. We did it through certifying them.

Unless we offer something as a government, not just a hope, we're going to miss out because the lock jam that I heard to enter into a translator program is about two years. They can't get in because there are people who have applied are so huge and the facility here can only take so many. So I think, as a

result, throughout the year, there was a call for “We need local courses for a translation service program.” I know from a Kitikmeot member when my colleague did call last year that “Why not have them locally?” That was one call.

Also, I think we can improve by certifying those who have the experience so that... Like you say, there’s no good trying to get into a business unless you’re given some accreditation that can prove that you’re able to provide that service. Would the minister consider including those so that the government and the public can be served with more experience? Even some young people have gone through sometimes a real challenge in the Inuktitut language. So I would like to ask the minister if he would give more and maybe consider it with some of the points I made. Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, we would consider the points that Mr. Curley is making, all of them, actually. I would just like to add that we absolutely would be interested in certifying people if they have those skills, then through our prior learning assessment tools that we have, we could assess those people and see what level that they’re at. If they are at the level already that they could be certified, we would be more than willing to do that. So there are avenues that we can work on this. Again, I am very proud that we can expand this program not only in Iqaluit here, but across the two other regions this coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very proud and honoured to ask this question. My former constituency assistant was involved for three decades with, formerly, the adult education centre.

I am glad to see that there is an increase in the amount of community learning centres that are being assessed with community needs, especially for those wanting informational access to college programs and services.

According to your Nunavut Arctic College business plan on NAC-10, one of the objectives, basically, is “To lead the improvement of programs and services to communities,” “To develop community-based distance learning capacity,” and “To increase accessibility of career programs in the communities.” I think we should also be reminded that for those who do not wish to leave home, they can access this program to enhance their academic skills or even specialize in certain areas. There is also distance education or online courses.

Mr. Chairman, with the increased need to have more education, it would be nice to have more awareness as well. As everybody in Nunavut knows, education is the foundation. Those who have graduated who would like to bridge their education to specified areas in training have that opportunity with the community learning centres.

This is in regard to the amount of funding allocated for the community learning centres. It’s noted that the projected increase will be slightly across

all regions in 2013-14. Do all community learning centres currently have full-time adult educators and what additional courses will be offered with this extra funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. I am very happy to hear that he is very supportive of Arctic College and the work they do and the programs they provide across the territory.

His question is: do all communities have adult basic instructors? Yes, they do. I am very proud to say that out of the 25 communities, 18 of the adult basic educators are beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am certainly glad to see that pathway for adult secondary school, or PASS, is being offered as well.

On a personal note, I was quite lucky to be able to attend Nunavut Sivuniksavut in affiliation with Algonquin College. It was a very beneficial program that was able to help me bridge to be able to attend and apply for Trent University.

With that in mind, I made an earlier comment about distance education and online courses that could be provided as well in partnership to be able to bridge these services for people who would like

to maintain their academic skills and enhance them while in Nunavut.

With the Community and Distance Learning Division, we will have a new program in 2013-14, as indicated as PASS, which will account for \$1.11 million in funding. Can you describe this program in more detail and explain how it will integrate with the Department of Education's adult mature graduation program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. As we are in the question period of our review, if you could please shorten the background or commentaries, it would enhance our process. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. This very important initiative called PASS is going to be very valuable to all communities across Nunavut. As the Premier, the Minister of Education, has outlined what the program is about before too, this is going to give an opportunity to adults who have not attained a grade 12 diploma access to do that, which is very important.

For the details, as I just said, the curriculum is being provided and being developed by the Department of Education, I believe, in partnership with us. We are going to be the main deliverer of that program. I would like to maybe just ask Mr. Shouldice to have a few comments as to what that all involves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Shouldice.

Mr. Shouldice: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We have been the delivery agent for the past program. All jurisdictions have some method for adults to return and complete their high school. Nunavut certainly has this. They have called it the PASS program.

There are a number of people who have two or three credits just to finish high school, which is a priority that we would like to address immediately. It's a good opportunity to remove another barrier for students so that they can progress. I always think of someone saying that they're 30 years old with two children and they needed to get English or history just to get their high school. If they could and a new opportunity came, they would be able to get a different job and progress.

I think it's a wonderful thing that we're doing. We're going to try to do it. For us, most of the contribution goes to staff members who will coordinate this. For the delivery, we will be using instructors who are on contract or staff and we will be doing some through distance as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean no disrespect or questioning your authority. I thank you for your direction as well. I just wanted to share that I think it's important, for those considering expanding their education, that this committee and most Nunavummiut are also faced with the same obstacles. Actually what the sitting here as a committee is doing is bridging these needs.

One of your priorities for 2013-14 listed on page NAC-11 is to "Update the Adult Basic Education Program curriculum..." What aspects of this program most needs updating? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't received a substantial amount of funding from the federal government to develop that further. Into the details, I'll have Mr. Shouldice respond to that too. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Shouldice.

Mr. Shouldice: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a number of years, when we transitioned into Nunavut, adult basic education had not changed and needed to be updated. Much of what we have delivered in the college, I think, really goes up to about the grade 9 level. We've never really had the opportunity to deliver any higher than that for a long time with an adult educator in the communities.

Last year, we were able to get \$11 million over the five years with the federal government and we had a plan. There has been a tremendous amount of things accomplished with it in terms of writing and updating the curriculum both in Inuktitut and English, the testing, and the assessment tests for skills for students. We have looked at our distance delivery. We have looked at our instructor manuals. We have prepared a number of those things.

That's what we propose to do with that over the next three years and improve our system with ABE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have a question subsequent to my short preamble.

I appreciate the minister's plan to build a training simulator in the area of equipment training in the equipment training centre. I think there is a high potential for the ambitions of young people who wanted to be able to drive those big, earthmoving equipment. The potential is that we have a plan in the planning stage of a megaproject. I'm talking about the proposed Nunavut-Manitoba road. In the western Kitikmeot region, there is another potential for an NWT-Nunavut road. I'm talking about our mining industry.

The minister has indicated that the government and industry are partnering in the heavy equipment training programs. We have different airports in different communities in different regions and these infrastructures are aging. These infrastructures are being overcrowded by community growth. The list goes on. How soon does the minister think that this training simulator will be in operation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Ningark for that question and his preamble. I think he's absolutely correct

in what he says. The demand by industry and economic growth in Nunavut is going to be there for a requirement for these types of skilled people to operate heavy equipment, all types of equipment, and other jobs that are going to happen in the mining industry. We are very interested in providing as many programs and training as many people we can in the skills that they need. In fact, I think we will probably have trouble keeping with the demand that's going to be out there.

The simulator in Rankin Inlet is being installed, I believe, at present. The simulation program that we're going to offer will be starting in September of this year, in this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I think this question was already asked, but I didn't hear it. (interpretation ends) Do all community learning centres currently have full-time adult educators? What additional courses will be offered with this extra funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. That was already asked, but you didn't hear it. Perhaps Minister Shewchuk can answer the question again.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question was asked and I'll just clarify it again. There are adult basic educators in all communities. I did mention before that out of the 25, 18 of them are beneficiaries in communities. The extra funding will just

be in enhancing existing programs and delivering any new programs we may deliver. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The college took over the operation and programming of Piqqusilirivvik, the Inuit cultural facility, in July of 2012. Can you describe any changes in the program delivery brought about by the transition and if there are any difficulties for staff or students in that transition? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, a good news story about the cultural school in Clyde River is that not only does it have a foundation and a base where it's operating the way we would like to see it operate; the intake into the program has expanded. I think we are pretty much full there now. If you could give me the numbers there, Mike, but there are 35 students there now, which is very good, from all regions across Nunavut that are taking part in this programming.

The curriculum is being enhanced and more curricula completed. There are satellite programs in Igloolik and Baker Lake. In Igloolik, it's having a great effect on the community and intake in the community is well taken. In Baker Lake, I think we've had some difficulties there because there is so much economic boom happening in Baker Lake and there are a lot of employment opportunities there.

From what we see from when we have taken over the cultural school, it's a good news story and things seem to be growing and increasing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can you provide some details on what you envision with the establishment of an Inuit Language and Culture Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just caught the end of that, establishing the Inuit Language and Culture Centre. There are plans to integrate to that. I'll have Mr. Shouldice respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Shouldice.

Mr. Shouldice: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I actually spoke about this last year in Committee of the Whole, if you recall. What we wanted to do in the college is to kind of put our best foot forward. We have a research institute. We have Igloolik with the oral history. We have a publishing section in the college. In fact, I found out in the last while that we have published nearly 60 different things in the last 10 years, which I thought was quite good for a small college. We have expertise in teacher education. We have a lot of language speakers on staff with

the Inuit Studies Program and interpreter/translator.

We realize that the core business for us needs to be our language and culture. We have a committee struck that is working on a business case to put this together to see how we will build this as the foundation of the college. Lucky us, Piqqusilirivvik came into the college last year. It adjusted our time schedule a wee bit on that. We need to know if we really strengthened our ability in language and culture, so we need to incorporate them into this process or the planning process. We intended to be finished this January, but we're not yet. We're a couple of months behind schedule. I think we will prepare and finish this and be able to present it in the spring. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. (interpretation ends) One of the college's priorities for 2012-13 was to deliver the Bachelor of Business Administration Program and an MOU was signed with Grant MacEwan University. Is this program now underway? If so, how many students are currently registered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, this program is in place and it's ongoing. We currently have nine students enrolled in the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Despite the desperate need for bilingual teachers in Nunavut, on page NAC-12 of your business plan, it appears that the amount allocated for teacher education in 2013-14 will only increase somewhat from 2012-13. Can you explain why there isn't more investment in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we had a problem with the translation there. We never heard the question.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Ugyuk, perhaps you can repeat your question because we had technical difficulties with the interpretation. Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Despite the desperate need for bilingual teachers in Nunavut, on page NAC-12 of your business plan, it appears that the amount allocated for teacher education in 2013-14 will only increase somewhat from 2012-13. Can you explain why there isn't more investment in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we do have a great investment in this area right now. Actually, we have 11 communities that

we are offering the NTEP program in and that will be carried over into the next year. There is a great investment in the NTEP program across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said there are 11 communities. (interpretation ends) How many students are currently in the college's Bachelor of Education program and when will they graduate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think she is asking for the numbers of students that we have in the 11 programs and the total number is approximately 100 students in the 11 programs that we're offering right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page NAC-13 of your business plan, one of your priorities for 2013-14 will be to develop a business case for funding to deliver the Early Childhood Education Program at the community level. How many communities have expressed a need for this kind of programming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for this question, a very important question too on early childhood education. We are in the process of hoping to get funding from the federal government to establish and deliver this program. In regard to the details of the communities and the locations, I will pass it on to Mr. Shouldice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Shouldice.

Mr. Shouldice: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, with funding from the Department of Education, we have been able to offer the certificate program in Baker Lake, Hall Beach, and Pond Inlet. It's a priority within the government, so we have put the Early Childhood Education Program in, under the responsibility of our NTEP program, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, and they have taken the responsibility of finding third party funding to continue to deliver our certificate. They are asking the federal government for funds, which has been well received. What we have been told is that we are actually waiting for signatures. We're looking at seven communities.

For many years, the programming had been offered though Kakivak in this region. We are tending to focus more so on the other two, the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq regions, for early childhood education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy

minister for his response. (interpretation ends) One of your departmental priorities for 2012-13 was to “Deliver the Practical Nurse Education Diploma Program in Cambridge Bay.” However, this could not happen “Due to the low number of applicants meeting the admission criteria...” What steps will be taken to address this situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it was really the admission criteria that were the issue here. The issue was that we had no people who were interested in taking the program, so the intake was not there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How many students are currently enrolled in the social service program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently enrolled in the social service program, we have seven students in the certificate stage and four students in the diploma stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your departmental priorities for

2012-13 was to “Establish university partnership for a Bachelor of Social Work...” Which potential university partners have been identified for delivering this program and when do you anticipate having an agreement in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently in discussions with partnership with the University of Regina. It's a well-developed, incredible program that they offer there and the other two territories are involved with the same university. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) I have Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a whole lot of questions. First of all, I just want to show my support to Nunavut Arctic College.

Last year, in Pond Inlet, the students graduated from the Environmental Technology Program. Mr. Minister, I want to tell you that Mr. Shouldice was able to come to Pond Inlet and we are glad about that. I wanted to express my thanks to the minister because we were able to have this program delivered in our community. This indicated to the residents of Pond Inlet, Nunavummiut, and Nunavut Arctic College that programs can be delivered in the communities. Even in the smaller communities, they can proceed and succeed.

The Environmental Technology Program was a two-year program in Pond Inlet. They started off with 14 students and all of them graduated. When we're taking schooling in our home communities, things tend to go smoothly because we have relatives, friends, and community members that we are getting support from. I am grateful that Pond Inlet was able to hold this program. The program went very well. Perhaps having programs in the communities, such as Pond Inlet, go very well. Maybe you can consider that more programs be held in the communities.

The Environmental Technology Program is very convenient for the people in the north because it has potential to create many different jobs through research, environmental programming, and so on. It was only a pilot project. It was convenient not only in Pond Inlet. Hopefully this program could be made available in the smaller communities besides Pond Inlet. However, if you want them permanently to be held in Pond Inlet, we are all for it. I just want to urge your department and the officials at Nunavut Arctic College to use that as a foundation. I urge you to hold more of these programs in the smaller communities.

I wanted to ask this question. If the smaller communities wanted to have a training program, such as the one in Pond Inlet, perhaps this program can be undertaken through Arctic College in Pond Inlet. What is the process? How do they usually proceed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Let me remind you to

concentrate on questions and shorten your preambles. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the comment and his question. I think his comment, though, is very important to the question that he asked because this project in Pond Inlet was very successful. It was a pilot project and it shows that programs such as this can be offered in other communities with success.

To develop a program and for something like this to happen in the community, it takes a lot of partners. That's very important too. It can be initiated by a community where they are interested in offering such a program. The Environmental Technology Program is so applicable to Nunavut, where the interest in communities and working in the environment are very high. If a community is interested, they can approach Arctic College and just begin the discussion stage, but it takes more than Arctic College to be involved. It takes partnership by the community, industry, other funding agencies, and Arctic College, but we would be open to all kinds of interest. It's a matter of developing partnerships, which was successful in Pond Inlet and the program was offered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for reminding me of our rules. Very briefly, I wanted to ask about the Piqqusilirivvik Inuit Cultural Learning Facility in Clyde River. We're proud of it and we want it to continue to have success. If I'm

correct, the Inuusiqliurvik is also in Clyde River. It's also very important. They are very capable of performing their duties. Do Piqqusilirivvik and Inuusiqliurvik work together? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they do work together. One is their own entity and their program and we're responsible for the cultural school, but they absolutely do work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We almost didn't ask questions to the minister about the \$31.8 million budget. I want to ask the minister as well. My question was already posed by another member. It was my understanding that there are 18 Inuit students taking the NTEP program at Nunavut Arctic College. Out of those 18 students, how or what do they instruct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Yes, he is right in the number. It's not NTEP; it's 18 adult basic educator instructors across the territory in the 25 communities who are beneficiaries. They instruct the curriculum that we have set up for the programs in the community learning centres. To expand on that, Mr.

Chairman, I would like to turn it over to Mr. Shouldice.

Chairman (Mr. Enook): If you were asking permission for Mr. Shouldice to speak, I grant you permission. Mr. Shouldice.

Mr. Shouldice: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to add the additional information that there are a number of instructors in the college who are Inuit as well, in the NTEP program, people who are just regular instructors with the college. With the CARS program that we offer for Nav Canada, both instructors are Inuit. Our senior instructor is not.

I'm just trying not to leave you with the impression that those are the only Inuit who are working at the instructor level within our organization. We have a number of internships for folks to move into instructor positions, one in the Nursing Program in particular, one at the trades training centre, and we have Inuit instructors in the trades training centre as well. We're moving in that direction and we strongly support it. We're constantly looking for the ability to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response as I now understand the issue. I know that they aren't the only instructors who are Inuit beneficiaries under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Even if the numbers were to exceed the number that he spoke about in his response, the 18 full-time instructors, my question, which may apply elsewhere, is

whether the trainee instructors who aren't beneficiaries receive different salary ranges. If there are different rates for non-beneficiaries, do you have that information or will the usual response that the answer will be provided in writing apply in this case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the question was: are the rates of pay the same for everybody? Yes, the rates of pay are the same for everybody and there are bilingual bonuses for some of the Inuit instructors too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. I want to ask this. Quite a while ago, using the English wording, they used to be called adult education centres. We don't see some of the programming that was available at that time anymore. What is the reason? I would like a response in one day. They were very effective programs, especially for social wellness. Why are some of these programs not available anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of what programming or what the institutions were called back then or back years ago, but I think what Mr. Oshutapik is saying

is that a place of delivery of education was called something different where we call them community learning centres at this point in time. Maybe Mr. Shouldice can expand; he might have more history on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shouldice: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I think we just changed the name over the years to community learning centres because it was more appropriate. We don't call it upgrading anymore as well because we found that adult basic education is more appropriate. I think it was as simple as that.

In the older days, yes, there were a lot of life skills programs and things like that, financial management, sewing, and cooking. I think all of those are still possible within the community on a part-time basis, though. You will see that now the pre-employment programs and life skills programs have been built into the curriculum. Many of the communities were offering similar things, but they're actually part of our full-time curriculum.

We have really sort of progressed in offering more certificates and diploma programs into the communities across the territory. It's part of the growth of the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. The reason I asked that question is because it appears that some

of the programs are no longer available and that you have to request for funding and whatnot.

The last question I want to ask is in regard to your earlier comments. We always hear about it from time to time and it's being mentioned in a very positive way. It's the interpreter training program that you mentioned earlier. If they want to start their own business, they can go through that procedure, but when you're trying to start your own business within Nunavut, it's not as easy as you mentioned earlier.

There are a lot of obstacles that we have to pass when starting a business. There are a lot of people who want to start their own business who haven't necessarily graduated from Nunavut Arctic College. There are a lot of people who want to start their own business, but there are a lot of obstacles they have to face. They have to go through hurdles first before they eventually are granted a licence. That's good. Once they finish their training, they can say, "Oh, it's not that easy." I know you're not looking after that program, but please be aware of that.

I also want to ask this question. If we want to start our own business without having to go through a lot of training, is there training available through that under Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no specific programs that are available to help people in how to get into business, but

there are avenues, as the member has stated, through Economic Development and Transportation and with the assistance of the GLOs in communities now. There would be information available if people are interested in getting into small business and how the process would work, what applications they would have to do, and then through that process, you would learn what types of skills or what types of certification you would need in those businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ugyuk, do you want to add a supplementary?

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We often hear that a lot of Inuit don't have jobs. I totally support Nunavut Arctic College because they deliver programs which will help these people get a job. We want to ensure that the people in our communities have good jobs.

I also want to find out: (interpretation ends) what is the current status of plans to develop the Kitikmeot Campus into a mine training facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for the question. As the member and the House are aware, it has always been a long-term plan to develop a trade school and more programming in the Kitikmeot region and in Cambridge Bay. This year, there is going to be construction taking place of the residence for the college campus and a daycare. In the years to

follow are the expansion and the building of a trade school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. (interpretation ends) What are some of the biggest challenges to enhancing the quality of student life at the regional campuses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's a very good question. Some of the biggest challenges, as we all know, is there is difficulty in younger people and adults too leaving their communities and going off to regional centres, not having family and friends around, and the want and the need to go home. So the challenge is trying to keep people in the regional centres and to provide them with the proper atmosphere and accommodations that will entice them to stay there and enjoy their time at the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. We are on page M-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$31,875,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that Nunavut Arctic College is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk, if you want to make any closing remarks, I would like to give you the opportunity. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and your committee for the interest and the support that you have for Nunavut Arctic College in Nunavut.

I would really like to just state that we have come a long way. I am very proud of the college and the growth that we've had in the past few years. It's really amazing, the things that have happened and the programs that we are delivering in our home territory of Nunavut. All of this would not be possible without all of our adult educators in each and every community that we have in Nunavut. I would like to thank them. I would like to thank all the Arctic College staff in the regional campuses and across the territory.

Also, Mr. Chairman, a lot of the things that we do wouldn't be available to do without partners. At this point in time, I would really like to thank private industry, who has contributed in a lot of programs that we are delivering, and the federal government and other agencies that allow us to enhance our adult learners and have the skills to meet the growing demands of our territory. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. At this time, before we proceed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

At this time, we will move on to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to go to the witness table and make his opening remarks. Minister Taptuna.

While they're getting ready, we will be on page L-3. Minister Taptuna, you may proceed when you're ready. Minister Taptuna.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, colleagues and committee members. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to meet with the members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2013-14 main estimates and business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Fiscal 2013-14 Government of Nunavut funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation will increase by \$8,957,000 (Section 3) from the main estimates of 2012-13. The increase includes:

- \$5,707,000 (Section 3 & 9) for O&M costs for public housing related to increasing utility rates, lease escalations, and local housing organizations formula funding increases related to NEU agreement, and changes to the public housing rent scale
- \$1,402,000 (Section 3 & 7) to offset the net reduction in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding
- \$931,000 (Section 3, 6 & 8) increase in administration costs related to

wage increases in new NEU agreement, completion of comprehensive housing strategy, and implementation of changes to public housing rent scale

- \$404,000 (Section 3 & 10) for utilities for staff housing
- \$331,000 (Section 3 & 12) to offset decline in own source revenue
- \$182,000 (Section 3 & 10) for other staff housing O&M costs due to wage increases in NEU agreement

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 2013-14 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): 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, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is the President and CEO, Alain Barriault, and on my left is Lori Kimball, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have any opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the corporation's proposed 2013-14 main estimates of \$165,819,000 have increased by approximately 5.7 percent since the introduction of the department's 2012-13 main estimates. The number of positions in the corporation is 90, which is approximately the same as in 2012-13.

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 proposed main estimates and business plan reflect the restructuring of government functions that was originally announced on July 11 of 2012. Responsibility for homelessness has been transferred from the Nunavut Housing Corporation to the new Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2011-12 annual report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 1 of 2013. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the corporation's 2012-13 annual report in the Legislative Assembly and emphasizes the importance of the corporation's annual report being tabled in a timely manner.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2010-11 annual report on contracting and procurement was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 21, 2012. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2011-12 report in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity and again emphasizes the importance of timely tabling.

Ministerial letters of expectation to the government's five largest Crown corporations and agencies for the 2012-13 fiscal year were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 6 of 2012. Responses to the letters of expectation were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5 of 2012.

The 2012-13 Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the Chairman of the

Nunavut Housing Corporation outlined a number of priorities for the fiscal year. These included requirements to “develop a plan to reduce Local Housing Organization arrears,” “conduct an internal review of the Staff Housing Policy,” and “develop an action plan for implementation of the GN Comprehensive Long-Term Housing Strategy.” The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the 2013-14 Letter of Expectation to the Chairman of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Members anticipate that this document will include information concerning the extent to which the corporation successfully achieved its 2012-13 priorities.

The standing committee looks forward to the development and tabling of a comprehensive long-term housing strategy. Members note that the corporation’s proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that it has “completed a Framework for the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing and Homelessness Strategy as a first step toward the completion of the GN Comprehensive Long Term Strategy. Building on the Framework, the NHC will complete the Strategy by March 31, 2013.”

Members note that the proposed 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Finance indicates that one of its priorities for the 2013-14 fiscal year is to “Finalize changes to the Staff Housing Policy,” which indicates that responsibility for this policy is now shared between this department and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Members note the importance of ensuring that staff housing is available in our smaller communities, especially for health and education positions.

Mr. Chairman, on October 26 of 2009, all Members of the Legislative Assembly announced 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.

On January 24 of 2013, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced changes to the public housing rent scale, which are scheduled to come into effect in the fall of 2013. As these changes are implemented, it will be essential that the Nunavut Housing Corporation monitor and evaluate the extent to which they reduce disincentives to employment and support the goals of poverty reduction and other social programs.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2011-12 annual report indicates that a total of \$2,218,000 was spent on homeownership programs in 2011-12. Members recognize that the corporation’s budget for homeownership programs is primarily funded through its annual capital estimates.

However, the standing committee does note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that the corporation has “reviewed its suite of homeownership programs and identified gaps in homeowner assistance where realistic and meaningful action can be taken to support both homeowners and the development of a private real estate market. NHC will continue to work on the development of new programs to meet these objectives as part of the

overall GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing Strategy.”

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments on the opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the minister’s opening comments, which is a one pager, the minister stated about the “burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative solutions and sources of funding.” I don’t know, Mr. Chairman.

In my community and every other community, 23 plus two, Repulse and Kugaaruk, there is a long list in each community of people waiting to move into a unit and there is growing overcrowding in each and every community. Mr. Chairman, how can we seek alternative solutions in our growing demand for more social housing? Where can we find potential partners willing to invest in social housing up here?

As I indicated, there is no market at all for housing in the smaller communities other than what is being offered by the government. I don’t envy the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the minister, and every staff in that corporation. We have our work cut out for us. We don’t have the money to find and build homes where the list is growing. Perhaps the potential is co-ops across Nunavut. Maybe NTI is willing to partner with us,

but in the private market for housing in the small communities, I think that’s a tall order. I don’t think I can put it in any other way.

We have to convince the counterparts, the federal government, that it is our right out here in the coldest part of the country to ensure that we shelter the community and citizens. I just want to throw that in there. We not only have not enough funding for capital; we can’t even the operating costs, according to the statement of the minister.

I just want to again put my two cents worth. If I can find a solution right now, today, I would be more than happy to say that here publicly in the House or in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. General comments. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well, I would like to share that we all in Nunavut know for a fact that, in respect to housing needs, housing like health and family services affect Nunavummiut every day. In the opening comments, it is encouraging to see the minister stating, in paragraph 5, “continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative solutions and sources of funding.” There may be a direct correlation in the cause and effect of the two crises, housing and family services, sadly leaving many in states of vulnerability.

I’m encouraged to see that the minister pointed out, in the second last paragraph, that he looks forward to lobbying the

federal government to continue to discuss our growing housing crises in Nunavut and the requirements for new funding for both capital and operating costs. It's a fact that the rest of my colleagues, the rest of Nunavummiut, and the people of Baker Lake would no doubt be in great support of lobbying for more resources for both capital and operating costs. It's just a statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. General comments. I don't think there are any more general comments and I have no more names on my list. We are on page L-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am gratified to see the minister present before us, as well as the president, including their comptroller. Welcome to the Chambers. I will be asking questions related to the homeownership programs.

Our residents ought to be able to get private homes if they are capable of maintaining it. As long as they are gainfully employed, full-time employees ought to have private homes. All employed workers and young couples should have the opportunity all the way to retirement age or if they have a nice pension, perhaps some people could afford their mortgages or to pay them off over this time period. However, the biggest obstacle or barrier faced by homeowners is land costs. It's over \$100,000 just for the land.

I would like to ask because the Nunavut Housing Corporation is the only one within the government departments that

is supporting potential homeowners. They have the down payment assistance program that Nunavutmiut can apply for. This is a very good program. Have you gained partnership from someone out there so we can keep the homeownership programs going? Who within the government can support you so that we can not only increase the number homeowners, but to keep the homeownership programs going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, if I understood the question correctly, from which department the housing corporation would get assistance, I would be saying automatically the Department of Finance, who budgets all the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Accordingly, I think it's important because there are long-term employees, even in smaller communities or larger ones, no doubt about it, who would like to have access to getting more than just a one-shot deal, more than just homeownership assistance provided to them. Is there any chance of getting any assistance towards offsetting costs that is preventing homeownership? Can the minister explain what these particular costs which prohibit homeownership applicants from getting into a mortgage? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the committee member's question. Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation does its best with the budget allotted. There are a lot of needs for homeownership.

Mr. Chairman, if I can with your permission, I would like the president to elaborate more on the changes that were made in the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program and the number of applications that went through. If I can get your permission for that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation did make some changes to the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program last year. In fact, it reduces the amount of money made available to each client as a homeowner, but it allows us to better serve a bigger population of people as well. We found that the program is still widely used and there is very much a demand for it.

In terms of some of the impediments to being able to afford homeownership, as Mr. Curley noted, there is a cost of land development. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has been working with Community and Government Services in trying to find ways to decrease the cost of land development and to increase the availability of land.

I, myself, met with NAMA, the Nunavut Association of Municipal

Administrators, in November and spoke on this topic. Just about a week ago, I spoke with the Baffin mayors on the same topic. We have also been in discussion with other partners within industry and the private sector. I spoke to the Nunavut Construction Association about two weeks ago in terms of supports and opportunities as well for them as businesses to support homeowners in small communities.

One of the big challenges for homeowners is the lack of available maintenance services within their communities. If they want someone to service their furnace or fix a broken window for that matter, many communities don't have small local contractors making the service available. So we're looking at forging partnerships and encouraging municipalities, contractors, and others to get involved. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. I think these services are helpful to potential homeowners, but my question still remains with the minister: what assurance, if any, can the minister indicate to the committee that there could be some progress made with respect to communities providing help to applicants in terms of land costs? Is it possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, land development in these smaller

communities has always been an issue for the housing corporation and the hamlets. So the officials have met with CGS officials to start discussions on this. As Mr. Ningark noted before, the land and the difficulty in coming up with a proper budget through dealing with homeownership and public housing has been very difficult. At this moment, the officials of the housing corporation are meeting with CGS officials to discuss this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's a huge task to find a way to try and reduce the cost of land costs in each community, but I also think it's not optional in terms of which communities should or could possibly help out. I think it should be a policy and, if that were the case, who should be setting up that policy? If the government still retains that much cost, but it would be a subsidy to individuals and, if that is the case, who should be responsible for initiating such a policy that homeowners?

Whether they are first-time homeowners or not, we may have to be flexible in terms of providing assistance to subsidy in terms of land development, but in my view, I don't believe it could be done without a policy from the government. If that's the case, then who should be developing that policy? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, CGS has responsibility of land

management throughout the territory and the hamlets. If a policy is required there, that's the department that would be doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. If I had my choice as to who should be responsible, I think the minister responsible for housing should be leading that policy development, which would obviously involve consultations not only with the cabinet ministers but homeowners out there, which should involve consultations with the MLAs, and yes, definitely, with the appropriate ministers. If that isn't done, then it's not going to get done. The policy won't exist and we will still be talking about that for perpetuity as far as I'm concerned. So it could be that looking for assistance to reduce the land costs from the government will likely never happen.

We're not suggesting at all that the municipality lose the amount of land leases, but we need more than just the down payment assistance program. We also need help in reducing land costs so that the amount of mortgage is reduced and affordable to the applicant. Would you be willing to ensure that you work with your colleagues to see whether or not it's possible and, if it's not possible, make a statement even in the springtime that that option is not worth looking at? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman,

there are all types of land usages out there, including residential, industrial, commercial, and other variables. Of course, we will look at all options. Housing is a priority in Nunavut. I'll make a commitment to look at some of these options that may be available to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We can work with CGS on that and look for solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We are on page L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, in 2010, I had asked about the housing rent scale and was advised that it was being visited at the time. Recently, our colleague, Mr. Hezekiah Oshutapik, eloquently and affectionately pursued the matter, as did other members, and continues to raise concerns. The housing rent scale is an issue that Nunavummiut are passionate of.

Constituents continually ask if the proposed scale will use the taxation year using gross income. Many state that perhaps net [income] should be used, considering the high costs of living, food, and other needs. Has or will the Nunavut Housing Corporation consider the high cost of living to feed families if using taxation gross to consider the possibility of using taxation net for the rent scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the president

respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently with the rent scale, as part of the changes, we will be using Line 150 from the CRA income tax returns, which is your total income. The way that the rent scale is geared, most of our clients will actually find that there will be a decrease in rent. In terms of their concerns of the high cost of living, I think that they will see a favourable rental adjustment as a result of this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response as well. I just wanted to have that for the record. It's good to know that, no doubt, my colleagues will have further detailed questions. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials, for being available while we have some questions. I have a question. Even without a preamble, I think it's going to be pretty clear.

From your studies, looking at Igluliuqatigiilauqta, "Let's Build a Home Together," it states that in 2009-2010, there was a survey done on

housing needs, how many increases they need, and how many houses they should build. Since then, up to now, what has been done in regard to the survey? It states that “35% were crowded dwellings, 23% required major repair, and 9% were both overcrowded and in need of major repair.” How are you going to use the results of the survey in dealing with the housing situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, we are preparing a strategy for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I want to take a couple of steps back. As the member is well aware, we completed 1,000-plus units through the Affordable Housing Initiative and the Nunavut Housing Trust. As the members are well aware, as a government, we chose to continue constructing, even though it was a huge over-cost; cost overruns. With the completion of that, we were able to house over 3,000 individuals in Nunavut in the houses that were constructed.

With this survey, we will also use it to prepare our strategy for production and tabling hopefully this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within Nunavut, there have been people becoming

homeowners since the homeownership programs were introduced. There are people who are now getting too old and some of them are dying. When you have your own home, it's very difficult for some families who are going through this situation. Is there any assistance available for these people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, we do not have any kind of program that will fund or assist elderly homeowners who have passed away. We do not have that. We encourage homeowners and the public out there to acquire life insurance or homeownership insurance. That will alleviate some of the cost that's necessary to carry out of the functions of a homeowner passing away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this should be looked into in the future because there is no program at all to assist these people.

My last question is on the lack of housing. Even if you are not with the housing corporation, we hear complaints about the lack of housing and whether this issue can be considered. I wanted to ask not just about our community. I know that the houses that were owned, as there was encouragement to get into homeownership, have been abandoned because the owners weren't able to keep

up with mortgage payments. Some of them could be retrofitted and reused. Do you do anything at all for those houses that are abandoned by the homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is aware that there are a number of abandoned houses or houses that have been boarded up that are privately owned for a number of different reasons. We have identified 55 such houses through our local housing associations just in the Baffin alone.

With some flexibility in our capital budget for spending, then it gives us the opportunity to look at buying some of these houses from the owners and retrofitting them and making them available as affordable housing for people in all of our communities, but we do need to have some flexibility in our budget to be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an issue kind of touched upon by a previous question

for which I want to get more clarification. I believe Mr. Curley raised the issue of homeownership within Nunavut earlier.

We all are aware of the challenges associated with living in Nunavut, as everything you need to purchase is extremely high. I want to see more emphasis on assistance programs specific to young couples just starting a family and who are keen to work at a job. I refer to young people on the cusp of starting a family, with both parents trying to work since they have completed their education and they are in the prime of their working lifetime. It is due to their dream of having a good job, of being in a position that has a good salary, yet this government seemingly abandons their need for assistance.

I believe the threshold is set at \$126,000 for the couple heading a house, yet these two persevering people who are trying to live the good life and who will never leave the territory of Nunavut and grow old in their community are suddenly deprived of the chance to make any progress. If their combined household income is over this threshold of \$126,000, they no longer qualify. Is this cast in stone? Can't we revisit this threshold at all?

Whoever travels to Nunavut for employment and their salary is below this threshold of \$126,000 is eligible for this program and they can be approved, even if they will probably leave our territory. Isn't this contrarian? We are penalizing our own young people from ever becoming eligible for this program. Can't this threshold be revisited for

cases like this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. Mr. Chairman, that's right. There's criteria put into the application process and everybody is treated equally, whether you're from Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, or just moved into Nunavut.

There is, I guess, what you would call some stipulation that some people just move into town here and get approved. That is not the case. Every application is evaluated, looked at, analyzed, and whether it's approved or rejected or put aside for more information, it's an ongoing process. If a couple or a person, let's say, is approved, they do get that funding for assistance.

Mr. Chairman, why there are limitation caps on the criteria is because we do not have all that much funding to pass around. When a person does make that amount of money, they're capable of going to the bank and getting assistance there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for indicating another problem. Thank you for recognizing the criteria. That's why it's not helping the people of Nunavut. The criteria are exactly what I was talking about.

If our young people are encouraged to work because they want to have a good life and if they make over \$126,000, then there's nothing they can do. Any outsider just coming into Nunavut who makes less than \$126,000 can get approval, yet they're not here for a very long time. Here we have couples who will not move out of Nunavut and who will start a family.

For a couple and their children, it's expensive to try to keep your family alive on one income. Sometimes you have both couples work in order to survive. Once both of them start working, the government doesn't want to help them anymore. Can't the government look into this again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee member stated that the government does not want to help. Mr. Chairman, we put out over \$72 million in assistance last fiscal year to subsidize fuel, the cost of power, and the cost of water. Mr. Chairman, there are ongoing programs in various departments of the government that assist Nunavummiut out there. When it comes to a young couple making that kind of income, they are quite capable of going to the bank and having the bank set up a mortgage for them.

Mr. Chairman, out of the number of people in public housing, approximately 90 percent of them are under the minimum wage criteria, so we focus our attention on them and we do the best we can with the small amount of budget

allocated for the homeownership programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I would now like to recognize the clock and report to the Speaker. We will adjourn. Please note that Mr. Rumbolt will be the first one to ask questions tomorrow.

Mr. Minister, please note that we are not done. Thank you. We will be back tomorrow. 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. Ningeongan.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 49 and 50 and would like to report progress and that Bill 50 is immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. 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. Mr. Elliott.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Third Reading

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 50 is ready for assent. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 15 in the *Orders of the Day*, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Shewchuk.

Revert to Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to correct the title of Bill 60 for which I gave notice to first reading of bills earlier today. The correct title of Bill 60 is *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. We will continue on with our orders of the day. Item 22 in our *Orders*

of the Day. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 15:

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 47
- Bill 48
- Bill 49
- Bill 54
- Bill 56

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:59*

