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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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(Iqaluit West)

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Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, September 10, 2013**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we continue with today's sitting, I would like to ask Ms. Ell to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. (interpretation ends) We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 312 – 3(3):
Helicopter Crash in Arctic Ocean**

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone. Mr. Speaker, we recently received the terrible news that last night, a helicopter operated with the Canadian Coast Guard research icebreaker, Amundsen, crashed

off the coast of Banks Island in the western Arctic.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I offer my deepest condolences to those affected by this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. I'm sure all members pass on their condolences to the family members and co-workers.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 313 – 3(3):
World Suicide Prevention Day**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, today is World Suicide Prevention Day. This year's international theme is focused on ending the stigma that presents a major barrier to suicide prevention.

I ask members and the public to join together to remember those who have lost their lives and to talk openly about suicide. World Suicide Prevention Day annually reaffirms the opportunity to raise awareness in all of our communities. We need to work collectively to change attitudes, reduce the isolation, strengthen our community networks, and keep those at risk safe.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Nunavummiut who work directly and indirectly on suicide prevention, from our mental health workers, social service providers, educators, justice workers,

elders, community members, and the countless individuals, organizations, and volunteers who dedicate their time and relentless support to suicide intervention and prevention.

Mr. Speaker, this year, the Embrace Life Council is in Cambridge Bay organizing numerous events with elders, youth, and our community to raise awareness. I encourage all residents of Cambridge Bay to attend the Embrace Life Council's candlelight vigil this evening and to take part in events this week.

We, as communities, government, organizations, and individuals, are committed to raising awareness and we recognize that there is still much work ahead.

Before I conclude, I would ask members and cabinet colleagues to join me in supporting the Embrace Life Council's candlelight vigil in Iqaluit Square tonight at 8:00 p.m. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 314 – 3(3):
Recap of NHC Accomplishments**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly is nearing the end of its journey, and sometimes we get so involved in getting our projects done that we don't take the time to sit back and reflect on our accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, the past five years have seen a tremendous amount of work accomplished by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It is important to reflect on these accomplishments because they have been focused on establishing a better for Nunavummiut.

In 2008, as you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation commissioned Nunavut's first ever housing needs survey that was completed the fall of 2010. This landmark project has met all of the objectives set for it. The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey has established a baseline of data for determining housing need in Nunavut. With this data, we have been able to build sensible and measurable arguments for increased investments for Nunavut.

The housing needs survey was critical in developing the framework for the Government of Nunavut Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy and the business case for renewed federal investment in housing in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, announced changes to Nunavut's public housing rent scale were greatly influenced by the work done for the strategy. Working to achieve another specific *Tamapta* objective, the Nunavut Housing Corporation approached this initiative with an eye on making effective changes that will have a direct impact on the lives of the majority of Nunavummiut. Not only do the approved changes address the disincentive to work in the rent scale; the Nunavut Housing Corporation goes further to reduce the administrative burden on our local housing

organizations, increasing local capacity to address housing issues.

Mr. Speaker, you will agree that these are significant achievements, made all the more impressive by the construction of 1,011 units, an internal restructure which saw the relocation of the corporation's entire financial function, and the creation of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's first board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. You're right, I do agree.

Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

**Minister's Statement 315 – 3(3):
Disability Grant - Financial
Assistance for Nunavut Students**

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. One of the many changes that have been recently implemented to the FANS program is an additional benefit for Nunavummiut. This new benefit is a disability grant that is available for individuals with documented permanent disabilities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this benefit is available for post-secondary students with disabilities and eligible Nunavut students are now able to apply for and receive up to \$8,000 per year for full-time students and up to \$1,000 per year for those undertaking distance education courses.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, all other FANS eligibility requirements remain and individuals interested in applying for this benefit need only mark on their FANS application that they are in receipt of disability benefits. Once this has been noted, a disability grant package will automatically be sent to the applicant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 316 – 3(3):
CMEC Meeting in Iqaluit**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the first time ever, Nunavut hosted education ministers from across Canada at the 101st meeting of CMEC, Council of Ministers of Education Canada.

Mr. Speaker, for many ministers, this was their first time in the eastern Arctic. Many delegates commented that this was one of the best CMEC meetings ever.

As Nunavummiut work to improve our education system, we face many common challenges with educators throughout Canada. As ministers of education, we discussed how to improve student achievement, with a particular focus on education for Inuit and First Nations communities. Evaluating education systems and student assessments is a part of the council's work, so our discussions with educators from other territories and provinces were helpful.

Mr. Speaker, at the meeting, I was very pleased to present the curriculum on residential schools that was developed by Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. There was a commitment at the meeting to include learning about residential schools in the curriculum taught in all provinces and territories. In this way, our work in Nunavut is a model to all Canadians on how to promote healing, reconciliation, and better understanding among cultures. Everyone agreed that we need to deal with the effects of residential schools in today's society by making sure our education systems celebrate diversity and respect language and culture.

Mr. Speaker, CMEC gives us an opportunity to work together to identify and share best practices on innovative teaching and learning strategies. We set an example for learners everywhere by learning from each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aariak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Minister's Statement 317 – 3(3): Skills Canada Nunavut

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned during the last session, Skills Canada Nunavut, who are in their ninth year of operation, is a non-profit organization that promotes the skilled trades and technology sectors as a career choice for youth.

Skills Canada Nunavut hosted a very successful territorial skills competition

in April 2013, where over 30 students competed in 10 different trade and technology events. Qualifying gold medal winners were invited to the 19th Skills Canada National Competition in Vancouver, BC in June. Students from Arviat, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Taloyoak attended this national competition.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in the eight years of competing at that level, Team Nunavut has won three silver medals, two bronze medals, and 22 finishes in the top six. Prior to having our own organization, we competed jointly as Team NWT/Nunavut where a student from Nunavut won a coveted gold medal.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row, Skills Canada Nunavut has earned the Team Spirit Award. It is a sought-after award that is won by the region and has the most engagement with social media and enthusiasm on the competition floor.

The initiatives of Skills Canada Nunavut expose Nunavut youth to the different skilled trades and technology opportunities. These activities help to encourage students to stay in school, find a career that they love, and be able to work in their hometown.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services is proud to sponsor Skills Canada Nunavut. I would like to recognize the other gold sponsors: Service Canada, Qulliq Energy Corporation, Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, First Air, and Nunavut Arctic College. I would also like to recognize the employers who allowed their apprentices to compete for

the territory and were so generous in their support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all our students and volunteers in skills clubs across the territory. We also invite industry, business, labour, and individual professionals to partner with Skills Canada Nunavut in guiding our youth towards the exciting and challenging career options in skilled trades and technologies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 318 – 3(3):
Investment in Community Marine
Facilities**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to report on improvements made to marine infrastructure in many Nunavut communities over the past several months. As my colleagues know, it is essential that Nunavummiut have safe and accessible marine facilities. These facilities play an important role in the harvesting activities of Nunavummiut. Marine infrastructure also helps to strengthen our economy by improving the efficiency and safety of sealift operations.

In recent years, while reviewing the capital plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, my colleagues have questioned the capital carryover for our Small Craft Harbours Program. Today, I

am happy to report that the understanding and trust my colleagues showed by deciding to vote for these carryovers was not misplaced.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the fiscal year, all communities were encouraged to submit proposals to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for projects that would improve existing marine facilities. I am pleased to announce that 19 communities took advantage of this program. To date, \$1.6 million has been committed for a variety of projects, including dock upgrades, dredging, boat launches, the installation of floating docks, and the upgrade of sealift areas.

Mr. Speaker, these projects will improve the capacity of our existing facilities, but they also send a strong message to the federal government. Nunavut is committed to allocating resources for marine infrastructure. The Government of Canada must also embrace its clear mandate to make the significant and sustained investment in ports and harbours which are desperately needed in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 544 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Akulliq
Graduates**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate this year's graduates in my constituency of Akulliq.

Mr. Speaker, both Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay have held graduation ceremonies this year, at which a number of our communities' young people took an important step forward in their lives.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduates in Kugaaruk are:

Rosemary Apsaktaun;

Geraldine Illuitok;

Charlene Immingark;

Travis Nalungiaq;

Gwendolin Ningark;

Kevin Ningark; and

Henry Qagutaq.

They don't make papers like they used to, so I'm having trouble with this.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduates in Repulse Bay are:

Calinda Nimiqaqtuq;

Charlie Uttak;

Craig Nanordluk;

Chico Qaunaq; and

Eric Nanorak.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental importance of education to our territory cannot be over-emphasized and every new graduate that we produce is a success story.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's graduates in Akulliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Member's Statement 545 – 3(3):
Improving Cancer Screening in
Nunavut**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for improved screening and detecting cancer. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have raised this important issue. Far too many of us have lost loved ones and family members to this terrible disease.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that community health centres hold Well Woman and Well Men clinics. There are programs encouraging self-examination for lumps that may be a sign of breast cancer. However, it appears that our territory is not being as proactive as it should be to screen for breast cancer.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, every jurisdiction across Canada, except for Nunavut, allows women who have

detected a breast lump through self-examination to request a mammogram. In Nunavut, despite the hard work and dedication of a group of women over many years to persuade the Department of Health to purchase a mammography machine, access to mammograms is very limited.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have heard that only doctors can refer a woman in Nunavut to have a mammogram and even when a patient explains that they have found a lump, the doctor may refuse the screening.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the members for giving me unanimous consent.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recognize that statistics show that the current rate of breast cancer in Nunavut is low. There may be many reasons for this, such as diet and lifestyle. However, as we have heard in other debates, our diet is changing, our lifestyle is changing, and the population of Nunavut is going through many changes.

Mr. Speaker, in all other jurisdictions in Canada, women of a certain age, women with a family history of breast cancer, and women who have detected a lump in their breast are able to request the breast

screening procedure. Nunavut should be offering the same level of care.

Mr. Speaker, mammography is an important cancer screening method. We should be using it more. We could be saving lives. At the appropriate time, I will ask a question on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 546 – 3(3): Nunavut's Bilingual Education Models

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring forward concerns that parents in my constituency have raised with respect to the implementation of bilingual education models in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues have noted, education is one of the most important keys to unlock the doors to success. We must acknowledge that our education system has moved forward and advanced considerably over recent years.

It is equally important to recognize the roles that parents, family members, and communities can play in supporting our youth in taking advantage of the educational opportunities that are available.

Mr. Speaker, learning is not a passive activity. Every student, young or old, must also take personal responsibility for working towards learning those skills that they need for their lives ahead. Learning is a lifelong activity and

educational systems should facilitate that activity.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard concerns that the bilingual education model chosen for the schools in my constituency is not facilitating the learning process for many students. In fact, one parent feels so strongly about the model's ineffectiveness in her community that after failing to convince the principal and the DEA to reconsider the school's approach, she is considering leaving the community to seek a better educational system for her child elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we all work together to address the issues that can affect the future of our children, our communities, and Nunavut as a whole.

At the appropriate time, I will be tabling a letter from one of my constituents as an example of a parent who is making every effort to ensure that her child is able to get the best educational opportunities possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the voices of our concerned parents be heard and responded to when considering the implementation of our education system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 547 – 3(3):
Funding for Improving Roads in
Nunavut**

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Uqaqtii*. (interpretation) Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and the dear people of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I have a short statement to speak to today. As I am thinking of the ending of this government's mandate, Nunavut isn't ending as a territory, especially the many ongoing challenges we face as a government.

If we looked at every one of our communities, the community roads aren't being maintained and repaired. All the while, funding is always at a premium with shortfalls everywhere for the hamlets and towns in Nunavut. However, if we were to review this from a southern perspective based on the number of vehicles using the roads, as well as vehicles requiring insurance just like our southern neighbours, it is becoming a costly luxury even for ATVs. It is very expensive to get insurance.

Our roads are full of potholes, which are becoming a safety concern. Some of the potholes force you to manoeuvre and drivers have had accidents trying to avoid the pothole with oncoming traffic in the other lane. Potholes have caused accidents in Rankin Inlet. These roads have been in a state of disrepair for a long time and some of them are quite deep since they haven't been repaired. The hamlet states that they have no funds to repair them.

I believe that the government has to set policies, not just for cities, but for towns specific to public works. If the tax-based communities want further funding to repair their roads, they should be provided funding to alleviate the dangerous state of the roads, especially for our elders who drive ATVs around our towns. This has to be the centre of focus.

There is funding available from the government that is being wasted. Some of these non-priority items are being funded by the government. In my mind, it is a waste. Due to this reason, the people who will be campaigning for this upcoming election will have to include this in their platform. I hope people debate this issue if my colleagues want to be re-elected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 548 – 3(3):
Recent Achievements of the
Hamlet of Arviat**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise in the House today to acknowledge the recent achievements in the Hamlet of Arviat, which I have the pleasure of representing in this legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Arviat has recently received its first visits from a cruise ship in over ten years. The Silver Explorer owned by Silver Seas visited Arviat twice in late August with approximately 120 passengers each time. The passengers were met with organized tours, visits to the Kiluk Sewing Centre, storytelling, a demonstration of traditional Inuit tools and clothing, and traditional performances. Many community members worked hard to make this visit a success and I especially would like to thank Arviat Tourism Coordinator Olivia Tagalik for her work in organizing this visit.

The economic benefits of the cruise ship visits are important to Arviat's small but growing tourism industry. The response from the visitors was overwhelmingly positive and we hope to see a visit from the Silver Explorer again next year.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before in the House about the training programs that the Hamlet of Arviat has developed. The hamlet is continuing to develop programs to improve Arviarmiut's employment opportunities both locally and in the mining industry. In July, the hamlet celebrated the fourth graduating class of the Arviat Diamond Drillers Helper Training Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Arviat graduates are Evano Aggark, Gabrielle Anowtalik, Brian Aruluq, James Aulajut, Robert Gibbons Jr., Romeo Ikakhik, Danny Ilungiyok, Jonah Kinak, Terrence King, Norman Kirkwa, Jonah Sewoe, and Andy Ulayok.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the industry request, the hamlet is now offering a three-week readiness program and continuing to offer driver training, as well as developed a welder's helper program.

These programs are strong examples of the positive results developed from partnerships between the municipal and territorial governments and the mining industry. I wish to particularly acknowledge the support of Kivalliq Partners in Development, the Kivalliq Mine Training Society, Agnico-Eagle Mines, and the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the community of Arviat and the Hamlet of Arviat, mayor,

council, and staff in their continued achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. You gave me a scare there. Some of the names of those individuals graduating, I remember them as infants and that's how long ago I was there.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 549 – 3(3): The Success of Kitikmeot Foods

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and appreciate the staff at Kitikmeot Foods in Cambridge Bay, who work very hard to produce the world-famous char and muskox products in our community.

Mr. Speaker, this summer, the Kitikmeot Food staff invited me on many occasions to join them at their plant for coffee, a staff barbeque, and to talk about work to do with producing their products. I must say that I was very impressed with the products, and I think they make the best coffee in Cambridge Bay as well.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that they're a very hard-working team, from the fishermen who net the fish at our local lakes and rivers to the staff who work at the plant, who make the delicious product, to the management who oversee the operations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Kitikmeot Foods folks for their hospitality and friendship, and wish them continued success in producing their wonderful products that cruise ship tourists,

investors, business travellers, and other visitors alike always look for when they're in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

Member's Statement 550 – 3(3): The Habitat for Humanity of Iqaluit

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send good afternoon greetings to the residents of Iqaluit East.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge some people in my statement today about an organization that has provided much needed assistance through voluntary work and specifically (interpretation ends) Habitat for Humanity in English. (interpretation) They have been working in Iqaluit and they are constructing a house through Habitat for Humanity. This organization is a voluntary housing construction entity that builds houses without any pay, specifically housing for people without the means to build their own houses. That is their mandate.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great work of Habitat for Humanity in Iqaluit. The mission of this volunteer-run organization is to mobilize volunteers and community partners to build simple, decent housing for working families, providing them with access to affordable homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, many Iqalumiut will have noticed the new homes being built in my constituency in Apex, the fourth Habitat home to be built in Iqaluit. In fact, many Iqalumiut have even picked up a hammer and lent a hand. Thank you very much to those people who have come out and helped. I understand that this year, local participation has been at an all-time high.

Mr. Speaker, this year's build has also attracted a total of 60 Global Village volunteers. These are volunteers from all over Canada who use their own time and money to spend a week in Iqaluit to help build homes and build hope. Since 2007, there have been over 150 Global Village volunteers visiting Iqaluit as part of this program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the 14 hard-working members of the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity, the local and Global Village volunteers, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the City of Iqaluit, and the support of local businesses, particularly First Air and Nunavut Construction Corporation.

I also would like to congratulate Joanna Awa, along with her daughter Jenna, who will eventually call this house a home. As part of the Habitat agreement, the future owner of the house must invest many hours of sweat equity. Having seen photos of Joanna insulating the bottom of her house-to-be in high winds, it looks like she has met this requirement with great enthusiasm.

If anyone is interested in volunteering...

(interpretation) I'm sorry. I would like to get consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, my colleagues, for allowing me to continue.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, donating, partnering, or applying for a Habitat for Humanity house, please check out the Habitat for Humanity website, Facebook, or Twitter page, or contact them at 979-7810.

(interpretation) These groups help out a lot on a volunteer basis and I thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aariak. 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. Minister Shewchuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize in the Gallery with us today Ms. Madeleine Redfern and Mr. Mark Mossey, both from the Legal Services Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the

Gallery. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 711 – 3(3): The State of Housing in Nunavut

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Yes, I believe that Habitat for Humanity will be assisted by me as soon as they start coming to Rankin Inlet. I'm sure I will be volunteering, not just in Iqaluit. It should be across Nunavut communities.

I would like to ask the minister for the housing corporation, Mr. Speaker.

I know that there has been a lot of improvement with respect to the housing corporation's mandate. We still have a lot of concerns because there are too many families living in one house. There is a lot of overcrowding and there are a lot of people on the waiting list. Some of these people occupy a house that is too old and mouldy.

We already heard from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Some of our concerns are being rectified, but can the minister inform this House if Nunavutmiut are going to get houses? They have to make sure that the houses are built properly, such as homeownership. Can the minister inform us what kinds of plans are in place for the homeownership programs to get them more assistance from your department? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we modified and upgraded the homeownership program and we're hoping that we're going to get more candidates for homeownerships throughout Nunavut.

As the member is well aware, the cost to the government for maintaining and operating a public unit is \$23,000. Through this program of homeownership, we hope that we can get more Nunavummiut involved in owning homes. That's one of the ways we see that it can be sustainable. As the member is well aware, 210 units are being built now with the \$100 million. It's going to cost this government well over \$5 million just to operate and maintain the homes.

So we encourage homeownership for Nunavummiut. We do the best we can to assist them through our regional offices, to assist any potential homeowners, and we do the best we can. We try and encourage homeownership throughout all three regions and that's one of the things that we want to promote more. We want to advertise and get this message out that there are programs there for homeownership that will suit individual families.

Of course, once the buildings are approved for construction, there is a process there where inspections take place, whether it's for the flooring, the framing, electrical, and plumbing. Those processes are there all the time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all of us understand pretty well the challenges that the Nunavut Housing Corporation faces. I particularly want to see some indication whether or not the current homeownership policies are being reviewed. I believe, in some respects, the current programs that the Nunavut Housing Corporation offers are outdated.

For instance, you do have a financial subsidy that the banks may welcome in terms of getting a mortgage, but the cost of attaining lots is staggeringly difficult in Nunavut. Therefore, on that basis, is the government or the minister prepared to see if he can modify the program to ensure that, despite the other good incentives, the government's own program is not hindered by the high cost of attaining lots in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we aim to try and improve on the existing programs that are out there, and we did just that with the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program. By August 23 of this year, we approved 39 applicants for homeownership and we did spend \$1.4 million on that.

We are aware that some of the other programs may need modifying to suit Nunavummiut, but that's work in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 712 – 3(3): Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

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

Last week, the minister tabled the Government of Nunavut's formal response to the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts concerning its review of the most recent annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

As the minister is aware, I have spoken strongly in this House in favour of Nunavummiut having a statutory right of access to information and protection of privacy at the municipal level.

The government's response to our report indicates that the GN will "examine options for ensuring municipalities meet requirements for transparency and openness as expected of any level of government in Nunavut."

Can the minister indicate when the government expects to be in a position to take action on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut believes in the principle of confidentiality and to be able to conduct investigations into the matter that requires (interpretation ends) access to information in English.

(interpretation) We believe it has to be conducted in that manner when we are talking about municipal governments and hamlets. However, at this time, when referring to the capacity level, they aren't quite at that level based on the information we have been provided by the hamlets.

However, they are being included, and I mean hamlet employees here, whenever there is training being offered about the (interpretation ends) access to information training. (interpretation) For workshops on this subject, as a matter of fact, there will be a workshop held this September and the hamlet employees will be invited to participate if they wish to be included.

Mr. Speaker, the member asked as well when the hamlet employees could be involved in this type of work, but I apologize as I can't respond as to exactly when they would become involved. I still can't determine the dates when they would be included. Obviously, we have to look at their employees, their capacity and capabilities to see whether they can undertake this type of activity within the hamlet offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Madam Aariak's

response as well. I'm sure the rest of Nunavut will be following this to see the progress in terms of accountability and transparency. No doubt, all municipalities and governing local organizations operate as smoothly as possible as they can, but as was indicated by a colleague of mine, it is public funds.

Mr. Speaker, the government's response to our report also indicates that it has issued directives to territorial Crown corporations and agencies concerning the public disclosure of their contracting, procurement and leasing activities. Does the government support the idea of introducing similar statutory requirements for municipal contracting, procurement and leasing activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member raising that question on this issue. The realm of employment via contracts has to be part of the discussions when the department responsible for awarding these contracts is talking with the hamlet officials. I believe that is the best way to handle this. At this time, I can't provide a response as to the exact procedures that they would have to follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's response to our report also indicates that the GN will "be reviewing health-specific privacy legislation in other jurisdictions." Can the minister indicate when the government expects to be in a position to introduce new health-specific privacy legislation in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is also another matter that is still being developed. It seems obvious that when the next government takes over, this issue will be reviewed at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 713 – 3(3): Improving Cancer Screening in Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's Statement, Nunavut could be doing more to screen for breast cancer. Can the minister explain why Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada where women who have followed the self-examination program and have discovered a lump in their breast are not permitted to request a mammogram directly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for his question. Mr. Speaker, during Well Women clinics, women will receive tests during their checkup and if there's any indication of illness or symptoms of breast cancer, they will be treated accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm whether or not there is a mammography machine located in Nunavut and, if so, is it currently operational? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a mammography machine at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. I don't believe it's used with all the full features, but I understand that it can be used for diagnostic testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response because Nunavummiut will now know. (interpretation ends)

Will the minister commit to directing his officials to reviewing Nunavut's breast cancer screening policies and to allow at-risk women to request mammograms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy is reviewed every five years. I believe that the policy is under review now or will be under review and complete by early next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 714 – 3(3): Nattilingmiut Language Curriculum

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow community members and the people of Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I tabled a letter from the Kinguvaasaliuqtut Language Society regarding the desperate need to develop language curriculum materials to revitalize and strengthen the Nattilingmiutut dialect. I hope the minister has had an opportunity to review the letter and is prepared to respond to my questions.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on what specific initiatives have been conducted or supported by his department to revitalize individual Inuit language dialects, such

as the Nattilingmiut dialect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising questions about our language and further, that she is ardent in protecting her dialect. Every fiscal year, the department allocates funds for disbursement specifically for language protection. This society has submitted proposals in the past to enhance the Nattilingmiut dialect and when the funds are approved by the department, they are allocated to the applicant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Kinguvaasaliuqtut Language Society has already undertaken a lot of work with both teachers and elders to begin developing Nattilingmiut teaching materials. Would the minister agree that it is important for his department to have a role in these kinds of initiatives, not only to support them, but to ensure that they can be completed in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Department of Culture and Heritage is extremely focused on the protection of language and further, the preservation and retention of language. Whenever an applicant makes a proposal to work on

language issues, our department provides this assistance.

So, yes, this language issue encompasses all dialects, not just the Nattilingmiut dialect, but for the entire Nunavut territory wherever language initiatives are proposed and when they request assistance. The Department of Culture and Heritage has been able to provide support and part of their mandate is to work on language protection.

We will continue to work with the society and further, I will work with my officials to ensure that the society wishing to preserve and retain the Nattilingmiut dialect can be included in the next round of proposals. We will endeavour to assist them at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) I am very proud of the members of the Kinguvaasaliuqtut Language Society for investing so much of their time and resources to developing this curriculum, including terminology that can be shared across the three communities, that is, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk, in order to save the Nattilingmiut dialect before it is too late. Will the minister commit his department to providing ongoing support for this extremely important project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my previous response, we are in agreement to provide assistance to any organization that requests assistance and support for language initiatives. We have employees in the language section willing to provide assistance and support. Furthermore, our Department of Culture and Heritage is supportive of these types of requests and it forms part of their mandated work.

This society in my colleague's riding has been approved in the past when they have submitted applications for funding and the Kinguvaasaliuqtut Language Society has been our point of contact. We have committed to this in the past and we will continue to provide assistance at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 715 – 3(3): Disaster Compensation Program

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send "good afternoon" greetings to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet and just now, I was informed about this event in which I share my joy in my fellow residents hauling in narwhals yesterday. That is good to hear.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, the Hon. Minister Arreak.

I would like to return to my line of questions yesterday about the hunter disaster relief program to get further clarification on the matter and to ensure

that our hunters completely understand the parameters.

Let me return to the Government of Nunavut and NTI shared work on this issue, including the recommendations contained within that report that urge the GN to provide assistance to hunters and to provide disaster relief when equipment is lost or damaged by inclement weather or storms.

This past summer, as per my Member's Statement, Pond Inlet experienced abnormal winds and this led to hunters losing their equipment right offshore of our community and I tabled pictures showing the damage.

Let me start by first asking about the inclement weather that led to intensive damage and destruction of personal equipment. Now, based on the disaster relief policy criteria, can these hunters apply for compensation for their lost and damaged equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been provided information on that storm damage when the wind whipped up on August 14. Perhaps Pond Inlet had its first major wind storm because we tend to hear that it rarely experiences strong winds.

Anyone affected can apply to this program as long as they have a (interpretation ends) general hunting licence (interpretation) or, alternatively, Inuit beneficiaries listed under the

Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. However, each case has to be investigated in order to receive compensation to determine whether or not the damage was caused by neglect or calamitous weather or accidental. Further, this criterion includes the requirement to have the individual glean 25 percent of their income from harvesting activities.

If the current requirements are met, then the hunter can apply for compensation and even if they don't quite qualify, they can still request assistance through the disaster program. Anyone can apply if they have lost equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue causes me great concern and I am very protective of our full-time hunters because of this fact. Our hunters live off limited income and they generally have the lowest income levels in Nunavut.

Hunters barely get by on whatever by-products they are able to sell, yet they provide much needed sustenance for our communities. Even though that is the case, the hunting equipment that they require is amongst the most expensive pieces of equipment that a person can purchase, yet their income levels are amongst the lowest of our residents. Generally, their equipment requires them to save due to the costs.

Can the minister indicate whether or not he has ever reconsidered this issue, especially how we can provide our hunters with more assistance? They

provide the meat that Inuit like to eat here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter was brought up through questioning from our colleague representing the Rankin Inlet North riding. This issue has been revisited as to how we can provide more hunters with assistance. That is why the programs have been offered for several years to compensate them if they lose their equipment. That is the main answer related to that line of questioning.

The hunters have to apply even if they aren't approved for compensation since they have some recourse under the program. The hunters are people we are proud of and we believe in their worth to their fellow residents for providing much needed sustenance to their fellow residents.

I can't respond to the ideas that have been discussed at this time, although the member has queried us about this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As residents of Nunavut, many of us are very appreciative of any assistance offered to our people, as we can request assistance through various programs, whether they are hunters or other workers. However, on some occasions, I believe there has to be an

adjudicator and arbitrator who can review and provide recommendations on improving existing programs.

Let me use this example. This spring, our hunters also experienced disastrous circumstances when hunters were at the floe edge during the spring hunting season where hunters lost a lot of snowmobiles and all of their hunting equipment. A hunter lost their boat with the motor attached, with the replacement costs surpassing \$19,000, actually more like \$18,500 for their lost equipment. At this time, based on the criteria listed in your policy, even if the hunter was approved for this so-called disaster policy, then the maximum available is only \$10,000.

Mr. Speaker, another rote answer from this government is, "Why don't these hunters apply for insurance for their equipment?" If you try to get insurance for this type of equipment, the costs are exorbitant and, as per my earlier statement, these hunters are in the lowest income levels.

It is as if this government policy is designed to stop applicants, with respect to the Department of Environment policy seemingly punishing our hunters with lost equipment costing over \$18,500. Am I correct in my understanding that no matter how expensive their lost equipment is, the maximum will always be set at \$10,000 and not a cent more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the funds are capped at \$10,000 per applicant. As to whether this fund will be capped at that amount forever isn't written in the policy. Each case will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, so I can't state that it won't ever surpass that amount. However, at this time, the department caps it at \$10,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 716 – 3(3): Nunavut's High School Graduates

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

Mr. Speaker, the standard of education achieved by Nunavut high school graduates is an issue that has been raised many times in this House.

As the minister is aware, Nunavut's education system offers different graduation options to its students. Some students take the classes in the academic stream, which is supposed to prepare them for university and post-secondary opportunities, while other students take classes in the general stream, which leads them to a basic grade 12 diploma, but does not provide them with what they need to be accepted at a post-secondary institution.

Can the minister clearly describe how her department keeps track of the number of students who graduate with an academic level grade 12 and how

many students graduate with a general level grade 12? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education has recently activated the student information system that will greatly improve how we collect data from our schools in terms of attendance and whatnot. This will greatly improve the access to information that we need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to be accepted into a post-secondary program at a university, students need to acquire a minimum number of credits and a minimum grade in special courses. The minister has described how to keep track of this, but does she keep a record of the number of students who are graduating from Nunavut high schools with the necessary academic background to apply for university level post-secondary education and would she be prepared to share that number with the Members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information with me at this point, but I would be happy to provide it when I get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The future of Nunavut depends in large part to the possibility of Nunavut high school graduates to be able to further their education in a professional field, which requires a university level education. Can the minister clearly describe what measures are in place to ensure that as many Nunavut high school graduates as possible are graduating with the necessary academic qualifications? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree with that fact. In fact, when I attend graduation ceremonies or when I visit schools, I do speak to the classrooms and I try to emphasize the importance of going beyond grade 12 and going on to college or university.

In order to do that, there are certain course selection criteria there that should be selected by students who are aspiring to attend academic level education. We encourage that the parents and the teacher go over the credits required for academic level education carefully earlier on in their education, especially at the beginning of the high school stage. It's very important that the selection of courses is taken carefully. It will guide them to complete at the academic level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 717 – 3(3): Bilingual Education Models in Our Schools

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's Statement, recently parents have brought forward concerns regarding the bilingual education models being used in Nunavut's schools. Some parents feel that the system is failing their children.

The three models of bilingual education for Nunavut's schools were introduced in 2004 and included the "Early Immersion" model, the "Qulliq" model, and the "Dual Language" model.

Can the minister clarify for this House whether her department tracks which communities are currently using which bilingual education model and if she would be able to make that information available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question from the member. Yes, the Department of Education does track which models are used and I would be happy to provide that information as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For some communities, instruction seems to be divided half in English and

half in Inuktitut. Can the minister describe how her department monitors which language of instruction is being used to deliver which subject and how the quality of the language of instruction is evaluated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the district education authorities play a big part in deciding which model of the language of instruction should be carried out in the classrooms in each different community. It's the district education authority's decision, with consultation with the schools and so on, that is given. I don't have the information as to how the evaluation is taken with me at this point. Again, I would be happy to provide it, if there is a system in place as to how the evaluation is carried out by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education's 2012-13 business plan referred to a number of assessment activities to be carried out. Can the minister clearly indicate whether or not those assessments have evaluated the success of the bilingual models being used in Nunavut's schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The assessment is a very important tool to find out exactly where our students are advancing or not advancing, and how our education system is doing. There are no final assessments produced to date and this is an ongoing initiative. I'm very much looking forward to the final results once all the assessment tools are in place. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aariak. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 718 – 3(3): Medical Travel Policy for Babysitters

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

In some cases, when parents are going for medical treatment, either a mother or father, with lots of children, it sometimes means that both parents have to travel, leaving their children behind. They then have to get a house-sitter to look after the house and children.

As an example, within the Akulliq Riding, from Kugaaruk, a person is requested to travel to Repulse Bay to look after their house and children, but the travel costs are quite expensive because you have to travel through Yellowknife. Even when the communities raise funds to assist in these costs, they can never quite cover the entire cost of the ticket.

Can the minister indicate whether or not his department has any (interpretation ends) policies, (interpretation) to say it in English, for situations where both

parents are required to travel outside and if their only option is to request relatives from another community, such as from Kugaaruk to Repulse Bay? This is specific to cases where the parents have to leave and they require a sitter for their house and children. Is there any type of policy for these situations to provide assistance? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Mr. Ningark's question. I'm unaware of any policy that addresses his concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand. Further, with respect to this type of situation occurring, is there any type of funding assistance available for this within his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is funding available, I am unaware of it and, therefore, I can't tell Mr. Ningark one way or the other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the

minister for responding to our questions. If he wasn't aware of any policies specific to this type of situation, is the minister aware of whether or not funds are available for this? Can the minister provide an update on this issue prior to the completion of this session in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many policies in the Department of Health covering many programs and services and health issues, serving 34,000 Nunavummiut. If Mr. Ningark wishes to visit me in my office or talk to me after and give some details, I can provide some more information. My officials can respond to me and I'll assure Mr. Ningark that I'll have an answer before the end of this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 719 – 3(3): Measuring School Attendance

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

Mr. Speaker, with the start of the school year, the Department of Education is finally implementing its electronic attendance recording system in all of Nunavut's schools. Hopefully this system will be able to provide up-to-date information on attendance rates for both individual students and schools as a whole.

Can the minister clearly describe how the information collected with the electronic system will be used to help improve attendance rates in Nunavut schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The research is based on the (interpretation ends) information system (interpretation) within the schools for collecting (interpretation ends) data. (interpretation) This will provide assistance in that when the school administrators are aware of the issues within their schools, they can deal with them.

Whenever we are in session, we are also questioned on various data-related information items, such as the number of students in a particular stream. This system will allow us to provide more details now that the data information systems are now in place in our schools. They will now be available to all schools.

(interpretation ends) The student information system (interpretation) is to collect data on students and there will be various benefits that we can glean from this data once all of the work is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues will be aware, I am not in favour of the practice of social passing where students progress from one grade

to the next, whether or not they have acquired the appropriate skills at each grade level. It appears that students are passing from grade to grade simply if they attend school.

Can the minister specify what level of independent attendance is required by students in order for them to proceed to the next level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his questions on this issue. As we all are aware, whenever a student attends classes regularly, their learning levels continue to rise compared to those students who have spotty attendance, who tend to fall behind in their lessons. Attendance is a very important aspect of learning, especially as the student works towards completing their schooling.

If I understood the member's question correctly, how... Perhaps I didn't understand his question properly, as I can't recall the information he wanted as I am trying to recall his question now. Mr. Speaker, can I ask exactly which issue the member was referring to in his question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Schell, could you repeat your question for the minister, please.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The specific question I was asking is: can the minister specify what level of independent attendance is required by a student in order for them to proceed to

the next grade level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for repeating that. As everyone knows, it is very important for a student to pass each grade level and in order to do that, one has to attend regularly in school. It is estimated that if a student does not attend, let's say, 70 percent of the time, then they're three years behind. In that, the attendance is very important. It is important for the parents or guardians to ensure that the student is in school, well-fed and well-rested. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though she didn't answer my question on that one because I asked her what the required attendance would be to move on to the next grade, what percentage of time they would have to attend school, but I'll ask her this one.

Statistics from the previous year show that school attendance rates can vary from a low 50 percent to a mid 80 percent. Can the minister describe what kind of attendance objectives her department will be setting for Nunavut schools and how the new electronic system will help achieve these objectives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The objectives that the member is asking me are ones that I don't have information on at this point.

With the amounts, it's important for students to ensure that, of course, they attend school regularly. Again, in repeating, the number of days that are not attended affects the schooling the student gets.

I don't have the objectives of what the member is asking with me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 720 – 3(3): Status of Development Partnership Agreement with Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, on March 18 of this year, I asked the minister for an update on the status of the government's negotiation of a development partnership agreement with Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation concerning the Mary River project, which is of great importance to the residents of Pond Inlet. At that time, the minister told me that this process would begin once an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement had been signed.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, the IIBA between the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and

Baffinland was signed last week. Now that the IIBA has been signed, can the minister indicate when negotiations between the GN and Baffinland will begin for a development partnership agreement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association and the proponent for coming up with an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. It's a milestone and the signing took place on Friday. So congratulations to both parties and the Inuit of the Qikiqtaaluk region.

Mr. Speaker, in January 2012, we updated our development partnership agreement. Within that agreement, we updated some tangible net objectives that we want to see in there as a government. Of course, those are: education, training, more infrastructure and other various benefits that may flow through this government and the proponent.

Again, both parties do have to agree. Through this development partnership agreement, it gives the proponent, the mining companies an avenue to qualify or be eligible for the fuel tax rebate, which is administered through the Department of Finance. Mr. Speaker, we await a formal letter from the proponent to commence negotiations on a DPA. Of course, it's not mandatory, both for the proponent and the government. There's

got to be agreement and benefits to each party for an agreement to be signed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have noted on a number of occasions, the Nunavut Impact Review Board's final hearing report on the Mary River project indicated that a development partnership agreement could result in a number of benefits, including "organizational infrastructure, physical infrastructure and communications infrastructure." Can the minister indicate what the Government of Nunavut's priorities will be when negotiating a new development partnership agreement with Baffinland? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, we have to give certain clarity to the proponent. Within our new policy, there are objectives that we will have to try to meet and of course, it's education and training, new infrastructure, and community capacity building. Through these more open discussions on the net benefits that we do want to receive from the proponent, it has to benefit the communities through the Government of Nunavut and it also has to be beneficial for the proponent.

Mr. Speaker, if there's no agreement that disqualifies or the proponent will not be eligible for the fuel tax rebate under the

Petroleum Products Tax Act, they do have to enter into a development partnership agreement to qualify for the fuel tax rebate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will understand and appreciate, it is essential that the community of Pond Inlet be closely consulted on its priorities. Will the minister commit to me today that the community and municipal leadership of Pond Inlet will be formally consulted and listened to as the Government of Nunavut prepares to negotiate a development partnership agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have our regional sustainable economic monitoring committees through our regional offices in the three regions. They inform my department of potential benefits that the community can receive from the mining companies. Of course, we do consult communities when it comes to negotiating DPAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 721 – 3(3): Outstanding Debt to GNWT

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

Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have noted that our counterparts in the Northwest Territories regularly raise the issue of outstanding amounts owed to them by the Government of Nunavut. I understand that the majority of this debt is due to health services that have been provided over the years to Nunavut residents at the Stanton Regional Hospital in Yellowknife.

Can the minister provide an update on exactly how much money the Government of Nunavut currently owes the Government of the Northwest Territories and what interest rate is being charged on that debt? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I have to apologize, Mr. Speaker. I just don't have that kind of information in my briefing binder, precise amounts, but we appreciate the Northwest Territories Stanton hospital. We had a quick tour of the Stanton hospital with our colleagues, John Ningark and Jeannie Ugyuk, in late July.

We talked to the chief executive officers and we have an excellent working relationship with the Stanton hospital serving the Kitikmeot. We did discuss some financial issues. I am aware that the hospital and the Government of Nunavut Department of Health are working through those issues. I just can't

provide that level of detail at this time of the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the chair of the Public Accounts Committee, public accounts and spending of the public money is very important.

Mr. Speaker, last week, my colleague from South Baffin asked a number of questions about the difficulties faced by our government officials in collecting fines across the territory. It's interesting that we, as a government, also find ourselves in the delinquent position of not paying our dues. My understanding is that the amount is close to \$10 million.

Can the minister describe what steps the Government of the Northwest Territories has made to collect on the funds owed to them? Perhaps we can learn from their example. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott again for his question. Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's any secret in this House and certainly not in Canada that the Government of Nunavut has made great strides in their financial reporting. We have tabled our public accounts on time for the last two years in a row. It looks like we will be doing it again the third year, and that's very good progress for our government. The Auditor General of Canada is very pleased with us and Minister Flaherty,

the Minister of Finance for Canada, is very pleased. We are making good progress.

I can assure Mr. Elliott that our government and the Government of Northwest Territories are in good conversation and good dialogue to discuss any accounts payable and accounts receivable between our respective governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe what steps the Government of Nunavut will take to ensure that we pay off our debt to the Government of the Northwest Territories in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Mr. Elliott working valiantly on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories to have the Government of Nunavut pay their bills.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Northwest Territories have a very good working relationship. We will address the issue. I can't give the details, but I assure Mr. Elliott that the level of concern that we have is not as elevated as his concern is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Members will note that the allotted time

for question period is expired and as such, we will move on in our orders of the day. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Did you say five or six? I think it was five.

>> *Laughter*

The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There being none. Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Peterson.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I quickly checked the orders of the day. I thought perhaps that I got the numbers mixed up. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome a lady from my riding to the Gallery today, Ms. Vicki Aitaok. She's a long-term resident of Cambridge Bay and of course, she's from the Kitikmeot. Mr. Speaker, she's one of the board members of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. She's the owner of Arctic Closet gift shops in Cambridge Bay. She organizes all the tours, coordinates visits with the increasing [number of] cruise ships that come to our community every summer. I welcome Vicki to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Welcome to the Gallery, Vicki.

We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

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

Committee Report 040 – 3(3): Bill 64, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Bill 64 will be placed on the order paper for September 12.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 395 – 3(3): Anconia Victory Lake Project

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a collection of documents concerning the Anconia Victory Lake Project. This collection includes items from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization

and the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board. I encourage all members to review these with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Tabled Document 396 – 3(3): 2012-2013 Annual Report - Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2012-13 Annual Report for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 397 – 3(3): Correspondence from a Concerned Parent

Tabled Document 398 – 3(3): CMAJ Article on Suicide

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two separate documents to table.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter from one of my constituents, a concerned parent, regarding the implementation of the Qulliq bilingual education model in the community of Arctic Bay. This a good example of parental involvement and it is my hope that this kind of activism will lead to situations being addressed and dealt with in a timely and effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table an article from the Journal of the Canadian Medical Association which appeared in its online issue today, on World Suicide Prevention Day.

Mr. Speaker, all too often we turn away from difficult truths. We don't mention them. We don't address them. I feel it is important that we look our challenges in the eye and learn how to overcome them.

I encourage my colleagues to read this article. Even though it talks about the high number of suicides amongst young Inuit boys, there is a message of hope from a young man who explains why he decided not to commit suicide. This is what we need to focus on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Tabled Document 399 – 3(3): Director of Child and Family Services Annual Report 2012-2013

Tabled Document 400 – 3(3): Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report 2011-2012

Tabled Document 401 – 3(3): Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report 2012-2013

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three tabling items.

I am pleased to table the Annual Report of the Director of Child and Family Services for 2012-13.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table the 2011-12 and the 2012-13 annual reports for the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Moving on in our orders of the day. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 40, 68, and 69, and Ministers' Statement 299 – 3(3) with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:19 and Committee resumed at 15:51*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good afternoon, members. Good afternoon to Nunavummiut watching the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. I welcome them and I welcome my colleagues. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 32, 40, 68, and 69, and Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Today, we wish to continue with the review of Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3) and, once concluded, we will proceed with the review of Bill 68, Bill 69, and Bill 32. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Does the committee agree to continue with our review of Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3): NHC Receives \$100 Million in Federal Government Funding – Consideration in Committee

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Alain Barriault, President and CEO of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. On my left is Mr. Eugene Lysy, Chairman of the Board of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I thank your witnesses

for appearing before the committee. Welcome. Yesterday, we were on general comments, if you can recall. Prior to going to that issue, I would like to urge the members to stick to the subject at hand regarding the allocation of houses to the Nunavut communities. We can proceed. On my list of names, I have Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3). I will be brief. (interpretation ends) How many houses do Nunavummiut need right now to meet our housing crisis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Ms. Ugyuk repeat that question there, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk, please repeat your question.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How many houses do Nunavummiut need right now to meet our housing crisis? 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. The need right now is a little over 3,500 units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How much will all that cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approximately \$1.5 billion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you for the responses, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How many houses are required to meet the annual growth in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anywhere from 90 to 100 units to meet the demand of the growing population. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What has the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Government of Nunavut, and NTI done to ask Ottawa for help? 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. On an ongoing basis, we do communicate our needs to the federal

government and I'm sure NTI has done that also. That was previously done for the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan funding that we did get in the past.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has come up with a strategy and collected data that we could bring forward to the federal government with reasonable facts, with facts that are related to what we are asking for, to try and meet our housing crisis in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your responses. In Rankin Inlet, the Prime Minister and Leona Aglukkaq, the Nunavut MP, was there. Even when they had a meeting with the Premier, if I could go through your department, was there a change in the housing issues to date?

When new houses spring up in the community, it seems like everybody is scrambling to get on the list to try to move into the house. What are the Nunavut government and the Premier doing to alleviate some of the housing shortages we have up here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna. I believe she wanted to go through your department to find out what the Prime Minister, our MP, and the Nunavut government are doing to alleviate the housing crisis.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I wasn't a participant in that discussion with the Prime Minister. The Premier would be in a better position to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On more than one occasion within a year, I've had meetings with the Prime Minister. Housing is an ongoing issue that we bring up on any occasion, not only I, but the other cabinet members, including having discussions on the same issue with the Nunavut MP.

I am very pleased that the federal government has allotted some monies for Nunavut. We were given \$100 million. Nunavut was the only one who was the recipient of that money. Again, I have told the Prime Minister on more than one occasion that I appreciate getting some funds from the federal government, but I try to make sure that he is aware that at all times, we need additional houses.

As the minister responsible for the housing corporation indicated, we need approximately 3,500 housing units. Every year, we have to build 90 houses in order to meet the needs of the people of Nunavut. We are in a dire situation right now. It is something that we will have to keep lobbying the federal government on at all times.

We are working together, going into partnership among the birthright

organizations, the federal government, and the Nunavut government, because this is a very important issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for her response. We lack housing, but the federal government, as I understand it, has not given us funding for homelessness. I would like to hear more about this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier, (interpretation) I believe that question was directed to you. If you understood the question, it was in regard to no money being set aside for homelessness.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are an increasing number of homeless people in Nunavut. There is an annual increase and we are starting to integrate that into the planning system of the government. I have kept homelessness and the shortage of housing in the same topic. Homelessness is under the Department of Family Services. Until now, we have not received funding specifically to target them separately from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Mr. Oshutapik, I have you on my list. Go ahead.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the

minister for being before us to review the housing issues.

My question is related to how housing units are allocated to which communities, especially with respect to the methodology that we hear about that was based on data and numbers. It is also listed in the statement as well that by using this methodology, they arrived at a decision to allocate housing, although they weren't able to allocate housing to all the communities. That is what I understood and which is why I would like clarification.

These numbers related to the housing shortages in all of our communities based on the waiting lists formed the basis for the allocations. Will this be the future practice whereby housing units will be allocated using the waiting lists whenever we are fortunate enough to receive federal funding for our housing needs? The statistics have been stated as being the best method for this.

So my question is: will this new allocation methodology be the only one used in the future? 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, we plan on using that methodology until a comparative equalization is across the board throughout Nunavut. That's the most transparent and fairest way possible. When we compare small communities to the major communities, then these small communities will not get a fair share of units allocated.

Mr. Chairman, in the past, Pangnirtung has received 55 units through the last construction season, the last round of funding, and through the Nunavut Housing Trust, they did receive 40 units. Another funding program, Canada's Economic Action Plan, through the Affordable Housing Initiative, they did receive 15, to bring the total up to 55 units in Pangnirtung.

We intend to use that methodology until we see equalization throughout our communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response, although it raises another question. Based on your response, previously if I understood the response, I wasn't going to have any further questions. However, the question I have is based on your response.

With respect to all communities here in Nunavut, when could we expect or can you estimate how many years it would take to have the communities become equitable in terms of housing? This is based on your previous response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member from Pangnirtung for that question. Mr. Chairman, there are numbers compared with the waiting list and percentages of housing units within that community. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Mr.

Barriault elaborate and try and respond with detailed information for the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, there are some large discrepancies, as we noted yesterday, between some of our communities in Nunavut.

Of the communities being allocated public housing through the \$100 million, the average waitlist as a percentage of stock is 34 percent, which means those communities are short one house for every three houses they have. In comparison to this, the communities that have not been chosen for allocation in this round of funding have an average need of 17 percent, which is less than one house for every five that they have.

There is quite a discrepancy in the needs between our communities. After the allocations of the \$100 million, the average need of communities that have been allocated is reduced to 25 percent compared to 17 percent on the communities that have not been allocated housing. As a result of this new construction, the needs of some communities in Nunavut will be more in line with the needs of other communities.

There are still a number of communities that have a much greater need than the rest, even after this construction allocation. Our intention is to continue allocating where the greatest need is until such time as the relative needs of our communities are about the same. At that point, we can start to focus our

funding efforts in a somewhat different strategic direction.

At this point, we want to address the discrepancy first, that communities that have 22 people living in one house will be addressed before other houses that have less overcrowding. Thank you.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the CEO for the response. Yesterday, I stated that... I wrote down what I heard and I am writing my questions as we go along because I want to find out and not forget about the questions that I would like to ask.

There was a statement that said that for more remote communities in Nunavut, it costs more to ship houses that are going to be built in those communities. That will always be the case because shipping the equipment to remote communities will always cost more. I hope that this is not going to be delaying the remote communities from getting houses built.

I hope that this will not be an excuse for the remote communities that they cannot build houses because of how far they live. I hope that's not going to be the case when we're going to be building houses in the communities of Nunavut because it's more expensive to ship them to remote communities. I hope all communities are treated equally. I hope that this is not going to be used as an excuse not to build houses in remote communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good point. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, that's not going to be the case. That's the reality up north here for shipping construction material or any types of supplies. It does cost more to ship to smaller communities. For housing allocations in the future, it's going to be based on needs. The smaller communities will be comparatively equal to the bigger communities throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, hon. minister and your officials. While I'm going into my questioning, I would like to state first of all that the lack of housing in Nunavut communities is very important. We have many problems in Nunavut, but the lack of housing is the most important issue that we have. We all have to try and get some answers to the shortage of housing in the communities.

It's not very good to have no place to stay. When I first became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I did not have a house and I had to live in a shed. I understood at that time that it was very important for everyone to have a house. It was not very good on my part when I had to live without a house. If you don't have a house, then it's really uncomfortable and it hurts your feelings. To hear that the government does not have enough money to build houses, I know that they're trying their best to rectify that.

I want to get some to answers to my questions. First of all, in the Minister's Statement on May 16, when I asked a question at that time on how the communities were allocated houses, one of the responses that he gave me was there are different reasons why they don't get houses, for example, Cape Dorset, because they did not have enough power in their generator, and some others a little bit different.

I would like to find out the various reasons why the people of Pond Inlet did not get any houses built. Minister Taptuna stated that some communities that are closer to economic development, such as mining, have employment, and they should be able to build their own houses because they're in a wage economy. I just wanted to get a clear answer.

The people of Pond Inlet understood that because there is the Mary River mine, the government doesn't have to help you as much. You're in a wage economy and you should try and build your own house. It seems like that whenever a community gets a wage economy.

Is it the same as Baker Lake? Is that the way it is with Baker Lake too? There is a mine close to Baker Lake. Is it okay for them not to be allotted a house because they will be able to build their own house? I just want to understand what he meant by that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, Pond Inlet is

still ranked 18th on the list and that's why they weren't allocated any units at the time.

I also talked about our homeownership programs. We encourage anybody who is able to put in an application to afford their own homes. We encourage that through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, through our programs, the NDAP program and other various programs that we have throughout the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

There are a lot of other factors that may be misinterpreted. Of course, Pond Inlet ranked 18th. As such, they weren't allocated any units because there were communities that were in greater need. In a wage economy, Baker Lake has that through the Agnico-Eagle Mines, but they were allocated 30 units. As such, there was a greater demand to house people when compared to the housing situation and the waiting list.

All of these factors are put in place or looked at, including the economic activity within the communities. The member mentioned Cape Dorset. Cape Dorset also wasn't allocated any units. There are a number of factors and one of them was generating capacity. Also, on a ranking list, they ranked below the last community that was allocated units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my question this way. There is a policy in place for providing houses for communities. The minister states that there are all kinds of ways to figure out if one community will

get houses. They use numbers and waiting lists.

I'll use Pond Inlet as an example. I don't really agree with the minister saying that Pond Inlet is the 18th in line to receive housing. My question is concerning the methodology. The minister stated that he will be using the methodology before it is changed. So are the people of Pond Inlet not expected to get any houses in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the methodology used was the fairest, transparent, and based on community needs. That's the method we're going to be using, as I indicated, until there's a comparative, relative equalization across communities of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond in more detail with the specific numbers pertaining to percentages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once this round of allocations is completed, there are several communities that still have a very much greater need demonstrated than others. We are still not at a point of equalizing or showing a comparable need between communities.

If we look at Iqaluit, Iqaluit is over 56 percent on the waiting list. Even after the

allocations this year, their waiting list is still in the mid 40s, 45 to 46 percent. Compared to other communities at 17 percent, there's a very large discrepancy. These are the types of numbers we are trying to equalize.

If we look at Repulse Bay, Repulse Bay is close to 47 percent on the waiting list. That's 47 percent need in their housing compared to 17 percent in other communities. Even after the allocation, Repulse Bay is still in the 30 percent range. So their need is still twice as much as other communities. We have to address this discrepancy in need between our communities.

Once we get to a point that relative needs are on the same level, then we can start to look at different approaches. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the numbers, the percentages you are quoting, I can't really understand as an Inuk because I am not very good with numbers. I don't really understand.

I have one question. Would the people of Pond Inlet be getting houses? Do we have to wait until all of the other communities have been allocated housing for Pond Inlet to finally get what they need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Barriault

respond to that question in detail. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am referencing some documents to ensure I'm giving you some accurate numbers.

There are a number of communities in Nunavut, mostly the ones that have not been allocated housing this round, whose need varies from 8 percent to roughly 21 percent. At 21 or 20 percent, that means for every five houses that you have, you need one more. There are many communities that are in a situation that for every five houses they have, if they had one more, they would no longer have a waiting list. If we look at the lowest need at this point, it was in Resolute Bay. That was 8 percent. That means they need one additional house for every ten houses they have.

Pond Inlet has twice as much need as Resolute Bay, but meanwhile, Iqaluit has twice as much need as Pond Inlet. For every ten houses that Iqaluit has, it needs another five houses. For every ten houses that Pond Inlet has, it needs two more houses. This is the comparison that we are trying to look at.

Pond Inlet's need is the same or very close to being the same as Cape Dorset, Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, Hall Beach, Kugaaruk, and Kimmirut. Many of these communities have very similar needs, but there are some communities that have needs that are twice as great. Until we can address those much larger needs, we cannot start addressing the other needs.

We have chosen to address the greatest needs first and once the relative needs are similar, all communities will be considered in a very equal fashion because they will be on an equal footing at that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps maybe because I didn't really listen, I don't think I really got my response. According to the method that you are using to allocate houses, is Pond Inlet not expected to have any houses in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, once the \$900 million construction of units is factored into the communities, of course, percentages are going to be changed. There is going to be no construction in Nunavut until we get more funding from the federal government. The next task of the cabinet is to make sure that we access more funding from the federal government.

Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that question in more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything is very much dependent on the funding that we have available. Within the limitations of that

funding, we will address the greatest needs first. The funding levels we receive will really be what determine how quickly Pond Inlet and communities that have a lower need than the ones that we are currently constructing in can receive new houses. That's really the determining factor. The sooner that we can obtain additional funds, the sooner we can build in all communities.

As Minister Taptuna pointed out earlier, Pond Inlet did receive an increase in their housing stock of almost 27 percent between the housing trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan. So that was quite a sizable increase in stock. We recognize that there is still a need in Pond Inlet, but we also recognize that there is a greater need in some other communities.

We wish we could provide all of the housing that is required by everyone, but as we noted earlier, we would need greater than \$1 billion to be able to do so. With the limited means that we do have, it's incumbent on us to maximize the impact of that money and also to address the greatest needs first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I paraphrase the question in this way, it will be understood. In looking at your housing allocation methodology as it stands, Pond Inlet is currently 18th on the list. I understand that fact completely.

For the next upcoming five-year period, if we were fortunate enough to receive a \$100 million funding formula... . As I stated earlier, I am numerically

challenged in terms of mathematical formulas. Let me raise this question. Let's say we were to receive funding in the amount of \$100 million for five-year periods in the future. Pond Inlet currently stands at the 18th spot. If we looked at the upcoming five-year period, does that mean that Pond Inlet may qualify for more housing in this hypothetical five-year period? I ask the question based on your current methodology. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, that depends on the amount of funding that we will get from the federal government. That will change the outlook on the needs. Mr. Chairman, if we're able to build a lot more units with over \$100 million in new funding, of course, it would make every situation different. We will have to take a close look at that to see if we can stretch the funding dollars to include some of these other communities that Mr. Enook is talking about, including Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know exactly how to state my question.

I know that you have a methodology in place for building houses in communities. I understand that. I also know that some communities need more than others. The housing corporation knows about the number system because they use that system. Pond Inlet is 18th on the list. What I'm trying to ask is:

from now, if the Nunavut government gets \$100 million every year for five years to build houses, would housing be allocated to Pond Inlet? Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every situation changes and whether we get funding every year, it changes the whole scenario. Of course, we're hoping that we could get \$100 million every year, but more than likely, that is not going to be the case. That's exactly what we, as cabinet, strive to relay in a message to our counterparts down in Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman, if I can, I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question in detail because there's a whole number of different factors that's got to be considered when the funding level goes from \$100 million in five years or \$100 million every year. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As housing is allocated through new construction funding, it does impact the relative need in that community. As such, the ranking in the waitlist percentage changes for all the communities. We also have to keep in mind that populations are growing at different paces in different communities; that people are moving from community to community, sometimes for employment or family reasons, and that impacts the waiting list.

Without taking those things into consideration, for example, Whale Cove is currently ranked as ninth in terms of need. Once their housing allocation is completed for the building of a five-plex, their rank then becomes 17th and Pond Inlet's ranking actually moves up to 15th. Other communities such as Baker Lake is currently ranked as the seventh greatest need, but once we can undertake this construction, their ranking moves down to 16th. So Pond Inlet, then, has a slightly greater need than those communities. In those communities, we have managed to equalize their need to Pond Inlet and a lot of other communities.

Meanwhile, once we look at communities such as Repulse Bay, Arviat, and Clyde River, they're still in the top four communities of having the greatest needs. So even with the construction that we have planned, their relative need is still substantially greater. As those are being addressed, we get closer and closer to be able to build in Pond Inlet and other communities.

If we had continued investment, then within five years, if we continued at that level, we would be able to equalize the needs and be able to consider all communities on a more level playing field. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want people to just give me details. I want answers. I understand what you are telling me. I just need an answer to this question.

With the methodology that you're using, should Pond Inlet not expect to receive any houses in the near future? That's all I wanted to know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and respond to that question. As I indicated before, everything is dependent on the amount of funding that we receive from the federal government pertaining to housing units. If we do get funding that's over \$200 million, that's going to change the whole scenario.

As I indicated, we're trying to equalize the needs within the communities so every community would have an equal opportunity of being allocated units. Again, at this time, we're trying to address those that have needs within the smaller communities.

Mr. Chairman, if we do get another round of funding, I am sure, throughout the years, every factor is going to be considered. We have a population growth rate and we need 90 to 100 new units per year. Every community is not the same. These numbers could change depending on certain circumstances, especially the amount of funding we receive from the federal government. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm proud to be representing the people of Pond Inlet. As Pond Inlet residents, we do have quite a

large number of problems for lack of housing. Pond Inlet will not get any answers for what they're asking. I don't know how else to ask. What I'm trying to ask is that and I'm not getting proper answers. When can Pond Inlet expect to get housing? I know that I won't get an answer, but that's the question that I'm asking. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to give a false answer. I'm not going to make an assumption. Therefore, I'm not going to say "yes" or "no" to his question.

Everything is dependent on the amount of funding this government receives from the federal government for housing units to be allocated throughout the territory. Things can change. Communities change. With the funding level on an annual basis of \$100 million, that's going to be changing a lot quicker. If we receive funding that's over \$100 million, let's say, \$200 million, it changes the whole scenario. In order to be fair and transparent, we will have to go through the procedures to make it fair and transparent.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to say "yes" or "no" to his question because I'll be assuming. There's a procedure that we do have to follow and every community is different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. According to the clock, your time limit has passed, Mr. Enook. I still have one more name. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not going to deal with the methodology. I think what we're looking for throughout Nunavut is the fairest approach to distribute housing. Surely, it depends on how much money is available.

I think what we have to say here is that as MLAs, there's not really much that we can help you with in increasing the supply of housing for Nunavutmiut. Unless the minister succeeds, No. 1, at reducing the cost of construction, that is one way that involves transportation costs, that involves the shipping companies finding a way for charitable or public housing. That is one area.

Secondly, unless you and your colleagues reduce the cost of municipal lots, to build a five-plex in my home community right now, that's five lots, about three or four or five lots, costs over \$300,000 before you put anything on it. Before you put any one nail, it's over \$350,000 for a lot for a five-plex. It costs over \$300,000. I believe the minister can negotiate with his colleagues that we need help in that area.

I would like the minister to explain a bit more. Are you going to try and negotiate with your colleagues in cabinet that there be an incentive or policies negotiated to allow the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as a charitable, non-profit company, to reduce the [cost of] lots available so that we can build more houses, so that some communities that rank 18th can be provided with housing? Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. One of the things that we try and do is reduce the cost of construction. With the help of the expertise that we have on the board of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, they're directed to look for ways to reduce costs in every shape and form that we can try and think of, and the lots are one of them. As you know, we have made some changes in our procurement processes to cut down on costs. Without hesitation, I would be looking for other ways to cut costs.

With some recommendations or even some ideas from out there, we will certainly be looking for other ways of cutting costs. I wouldn't be necessarily negotiating with my colleagues at the cabinet level, but certainly, we're going to be talking about that and trying to find ways, as a government as a whole, to try and reduce costs to get more units into Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, if I can, I'll have Mr. Barriault elaborate a little more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are definitely a number of factors that we are trying to tackle and address to reduce the cost of building in Nunavut.

There are a number of factors that are driving our needs in our funding requirements. One is population growth. One is the percentage of our population that needs public housing because they can't afford any other option. So we have to look at other affordable housing

means that do not require as much subsidy from government, but we also have to look at means for Nunavummiut to become employed and not need the level of subsidy that they are currently requiring.

On top of that, we have to look at ways we can reduce the cost of providing any housing that we do need to provide. That includes transportation costs and land development costs. We are approaching this from a number of different angles. There are many different factors that do impact on the need for housing, the affordability of housing, and the cost of housing.

Working with Community and Government Services and working with the Nunavut municipalities to find ways to reduce land costs is one of the means that we are pursuing and have already begun pursuing. We also have to keep in mind that simply reducing costs that are charged to the Nunavut Housing Corporation means that those costs have to be absorbed by someone else. Unless we can find a way to reduce the overall cost, someone still has to pay for the development cost. Things are somewhat complex. They're not always as simple as they appear.

We have to keep in mind that, through all of these different means of reducing the needs and the dependence on housing, if we can't find the means to reduce that need and we are not able to supply 90 houses per year to keep up with population growth, the impact of this \$100 million investment will disappear in three years. We need roughly \$36 million a year to keep up with the population growth based on current costs and current need

projections. \$100 million only represents three years of that population growth pressure.

We have to approach this from many different aspects. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's GN comprehensive housing strategy addresses all of those factors. We can't solve this alone. We have to work together, and we will continue to do this. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. I fully understand that. One thing I want to make clear, though, is that it's not up to the federal government to reduce the cost of construction or give the public in Nunavut a better chance to get a home by reducing the cost of lots. That's within our own government. Our own government can take care of that. So the sooner we get some indications from the minister and his officials, it would help to start building affordable homes and increase the supply of housing.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister: in developing the ranking system for public housing, was there consideration used for availability of other housing like the private sector, like in Iqaluit here? There is ample supply of housing here. It's just that they remain empty. That's the whole thing. Why aren't we able to tap into those apartments and still allow Iqaluit as a pressure point in the ranking system? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I want Mr. Barriault to answer that question in detail. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every community has a different housing need and also a different housing supply available. In most Nunavut communities, there are no private houses available for rental whatsoever and very limited number of houses available for sale.

Iqaluit has a very different market than most of the other communities. There are many privately owned rental units, but many of them are targeted to corporate clients. Some of the rents that are being charged and sought by the realtors are well beyond the affordable reach of most Nunavummiut. Companies tend to rent these houses for their staff and they become staff housing, but most individuals cannot afford the rents that they're seeking.

To some extent, it's a matter of supply and demand. If you are a company that's profit-driven and you can maximize your profit by charging high rents to people who are willing to pay, as long as someone is willing to pay it, then that's how you increase your profits for your investors. If no one is willing to pay that price, then you lower your price.

We're seeking means right now in working with the Iqaluit-based developers to make an affordable housing supply available for this market.

Development is very limited through the City of Iqaluit at this point. They have some infrastructure challenges that prevent them from developing at a faster pace or at a pace that we would like to see. Many developers would actually build more rental housing if there was developed land available to do so.

We are discussing these challenges both in terms of lack of affordable housing, either for purchase or for rent, and different development challenges in the city of Iqaluit on Thursday of this week, in the Sixth Annual Iqaluit Housing Roundtable sponsored by Canada Mortgage and Housing. This has been an annual event where we do explore some of those challenges and try to find solutions, working together between realtors, developers, contractors, and builders. We have to work together to find these solutions. The City of Iqaluit, by the way, is also a partner in this endeavour. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. My next question, really, has to do with the fact that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is also responsible for supplying staff housing. Out of the \$100 million available, is there any allocation for staff housing? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there is no allocation for staff units. The \$100 million is for public units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, it is a fact, though, that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for staff housing supply. Can the minister indicate the projections of what he has to supply the number of staff housing units throughout Nunavut for the coming year? Does he have that information? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information in front of me. If Mr. Barriault can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation works with the GN Department of Finance's human resource division in determining where the greatest need is for staff housing and determining where to allocate and supply housing with the limited funding that is made available to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The housing corporation is the portfolio manager. We do property management, we do check-ins and check-outs of staff housing units, and we oversee the allocation process.

Staff housing is a recruitment and retention tool of the Government of Nunavut. We have to work closely with the human resource function in determining where those greatest needs are. There are many client departments

that make use of staff housing. The Nunavut Housing Corporation works with these departments to help identify what their pressing staff housing needs are in the various Nunavut communities.

We then have to explore leasing and purchase options or building options to get the best value for the funds that are available, also in terms of land availability, if we want to build, or leasing, if leasing opportunities exist.

For the year 2013, \$5 million was allocated for construction of staff housing. Most of this money has been allocated for the building of a 10-plex in Cambridge Bay. The location of this construction was determined in consultation with the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the minister at all considered changing that policy so that the Nunavut Housing Corporation gets away from supplying housing to staff housing in Nunavut and allow the private sector, actually, to build private or at least the staff housing supply throughout Nunavut? That would surely improve, at least, the government's ability to invest its own money towards public housing in Nunavut. Would that not be a better policy and, if not, can the minister explain, please? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I wish to remind members that we are only discussing issues contained in the statement regard the Nunavut Housing Corporation's

allocation methodology for housing. This is just a reminder to members. If you would like to respond, Minister Taptuna, can you try to answer the question from Mr. Curley?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very quickly, we are exploring that option. In fact, there's some of that happening in Baker Lake. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have the president elaborate a little more on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As some of our Nunavut economies start to develop and there's more and more wage employment, there will be more and more opportunity for the private sector to develop housing to rent directly to Nunavummiut. Unfortunately, in most of our communities, there is not that economic thrust happening and communities are not large enough to make it economically feasible for private developers to proceed to do so.

In some markets we have seen, for example, as noted by Minister Taptuna, in Baker Lake, one of the construction companies has been building houses. Some have been leased to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for use as staff housing. Quite a number of these units have been rented privately at one point to Agnico-Eagle. They're also being rented to private individuals. So people can rent a house the same as they would down south. Part of the challenge is to make it affordable. This one particular contractor has made houses available and attractive to private rental.

As we see more activity happening in some communities, especially on the mining front, there will be more and more opportunity for the private sector. So we very much encourage the private sector to start investing in these opportunities. We are very much willing to work with them in making this happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. At this time, I have Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go back to one of the questions I asked yesterday of the minister. It was in regard to the question I had asked back in May in regard to Kimmirut and Cape Dorset. He made it quite clear at the time that Kimmirut didn't qualify, but he blamed the issue of power in Cape Dorset. I asked him again because I said that they were planning on doing a new power plant in Cape Dorset. He iterated again to make it clear that they have no power in Cape Dorset. Yesterday, when I asked him that, he said that it doesn't really matter because Cape Dorset doesn't rate in there anyway. They're at 18th or something. Can the minister explain why he had a different answer yesterday than he had on May 16? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of different factors that played a role in this. Of course, I said yesterday that the methodology used didn't allow Cape Dorset for allocations because it had a lesser need than most communities. I also mentioned that Cape Dorset was

maxed out. The generating capacity wouldn't handle any other construction or more units within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, he's probably not aware, but they brought a temporary 1 Meg unit which will handle more than we will ever build in the next few years here.

My question is: if it's not a power issue in Cape Dorset, if they have enough power to build houses, would that change the rating in Cape Dorset from 18th? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister be willing to table the calculations that were used for each community with this new methodology so we will all understand why certain communities got units and other ones didn't? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you. Yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. We have gone in circles in terms of how the numbers have been calculated in terms of the number of existing housing units, which is easy to determine because you just walk around town. A lot seems to be depending on the waitlist. As the minister pointed out yesterday, obviously, across the territory, communities are not calculating a waitlist or putting people on a waitlist the same way because we do have communities that have over 20 people in houses.

You have now made it publicly clear that over the next while, until things equalize, we will be taking the number of existing units with the waitlist, which begs the question: in terms of human nature, what's going to stop people and housing associations from padding the waitlist? How are you standardizing it across the territory to make sure that doesn't happen? There's nothing stopping Mr. Enook, who is very passionate about his community getting some, and then having the housing association put as many people on the list as possible because then the waitlist goes up. Is that not correct?

I realize we're trying to make it fair across the territory so that allocation equalizes the number of houses and we're all working towards the same goal, but sometimes people are willing to go different ways to get at certain goals. I'm just wondering and curious how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to deal with that. 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. When it comes to housing, everybody is quite passionate about housing for their communities and throughout Nunavut, including myself.

Mr. Chairman, with the new rent scale software that's going to be initiated throughout all the communities in Nunavut, it will verify and validate accurate numbers that the housing corporation can use. There's very little opportunity for misleading data to be given to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. With the new software, we aim to make sure that that doesn't happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing [Initiative], I remember that there were numbers, about 285, you mentioned yesterday. Are all the houses now complete? Is everything finished on both the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just so happens that in one of his constituency of Grise Fiord, there is still construction happening and this construction is proposed to be finished by this week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Again I would like to remind the

member that we are not trying to go back to what was. We're trying to deal with the current situation that has come before us, Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3). Mr. Elliott, perhaps you could make the circle a little bit smaller in that regard. (interpretation) Thank you.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister sort of answered part of the question where Grise Fiord just had two of its houses finished. Are the numbers that you gave us in terms of calculation for housing allocation change the percentage for Grise Fiord? I hope that brings that back to what we're talking about because that means that we're really good for houses up in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and I need to keep pushing Arctic Bay, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey was done while construction was happening and those numbers were factored in. Mr. Chairman, if I can get Mr. Barriault to verify and quantify some of these percentages for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I am very pleased to be able to report that once this last duplex is completed in Grise Fiord this week, it's just waiting for an electrician who is flying up to make the final touches, the revised August 2013 waiting list of two should be eliminated. Congratulations!

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Pardon me, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the other question I have is the number that came up was something like \$470,000 per housing unit, but I know you said that depending on location, gravel, and whether it is built on a hill, there are different prices.

At one time, we had about \$3 million worth of sea cans lying around, which would roughly be six new housing units that could be built if we could free that money up. I know I have asked about this many times. Some people want to buy the sea cans, some people don't want to buy the sea cans, and some people still think that they are owned by the housing corporation. Is there any way of retrieving that \$3 million and maybe building some more houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations of the Nunavut Housing Corporation in many communities require upgrades, additions, and replacements of warehousing. If I recall correctly, the last warehouse that was

built in Nunavut for local housing organizations was in Arctic Bay around 1995, if I remember correctly.

Many of our communities have grown substantially. Just between the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan, we have added 25 percent to our housing stock. We have gone from 4,000 public housing units to almost 5,000 public housing units, but we have not increased our warehousing during that time. We have incorporated some plans to provide new warehousing in the GN's capital forecast. However, until that time, we have a need for additional storage. Our first use of these sea cans is for that storage until we can provide more warehousing.

In the Baffin region in particular, we have now identified all of the sea cans that are required by our LHOs for temporary storage. In the Kitikmeot, all of our sea cans, which were very few, are now in use by our LHOs. We have made available to the GN any surplus sea cans we have in the Baffin region at this point, and then from there, we will start making them available to the public and that will be within the next few weeks. Kivalliq construction did continue with the economic action plan and the Nunavut Housing Trust for longer than in the Baffin region.

As sea can needs are being identified, they would be made available for sale as well. Some have been sold. The ones provided to the GN are being sold at \$3,000 each and those monies are being brought back into the capital budget for housing purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. I have no more names on my list. Does the committee agree that we have concluded with the review of Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank Minister Taptuna, Mr. Barriault, and Mr. Lysy for appearing at the witness table. Minister, if you have any closing remarks, you may proceed.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the scrutiny and discussions from the committee members.

Mr. Chairman, housing is always a challenge in Nunavut and always will be for a long time. We're in dire straits. We still need over 3,500 units within Nunavut. I appreciate the fact that my colleagues from both sides of the table have been writing letters to Ottawa to indicate that this is a very serious situation in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my staff here and the chairman of the board in working very hard to expeditiously find a fair method of allocating units from this \$100 million. Once that was announced, everybody went to work at the Nunavut Housing Corporation and I really appreciate the hard work that has been put into this. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I also thank your witnesses. I thank the members for asking very good questions. At this time,

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

Thank you. Members, we will take a five-minute break while we prepare ourselves to deal with Bill 68. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:14 and resumed at 17:26

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): We can proceed with the Committee of the Whole. We will just go ahead with our agenda and we will be dealing with Bill 68. Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Peterson and his witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 68 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
3, 2013-2014 – Consideration in
Committee**

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Welcome, Minister Peterson. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister for the Department of Finance, and to my left is Peter Tumilty, Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy and [Planning]. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I welcome your officials. Minister Peterson, as we begin our deliberation on Bill 68, I give you an

opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 68, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*.

Bill 68 is for the capital supplementary appropriation for 2013-14 totalling \$13,753,000. This appropriation is for adjustments to the capital carryover amounts previously approved from the 2012-13 fiscal year to the 2013-14 fiscal year in addition to several new requests for project funding. The total capital appropriation can be broken down as follows:

- \$1,900,000 for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in a budget reallocation from Vote 1 to Vote 2 for office renovations and the procurement of office equipment for the Aeroplex Building;
- \$181,000 for the Department of Finance and it includes a reallocation of \$184,000 from Vote 1 to Vote 2 for renovations of the Helen Maksagak Building in Cambridge Bay, as well as a \$3,000 decrease to the capital carryover amount for the Kitikmeot Campus, residence, and daycare project for Nunavut Arctic College;
- \$93,000 in adjustments to capital carryovers for seven projects for the Department of Education, covering four school projects, some minor capital, and the school and special needs assessment programs;
- \$4,674,000 in three projects for the Department of Health, which includes \$4 million in an anticipated budget shortfall for the Taloyoak Health Centre;
- \$700,000 to upgrade the structured wiring and telephone systems in community health centres;
- \$26,000 reduction in the capital carryover amount for the Baffin hospital renovation project;
- -\$31,000 for the Department of Environment, which is a decrease in the capital carryover amounts of the Sylvia Grinnell and Clyde River park projects;
- \$7,416,000 in 17 projects for the Department of Community and Government Services, covering capital carryover adjustments of \$610,000 for various municipal and community infrastructure projects, \$780,000 for roof repairs to the Kugaaruk Hamlet Office, and \$6,026,000 for the arena upgrades in Pangnirtung, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove; and
- -\$480,000 in five projects for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, covering decreases in the capital carryover amounts for the airport improvement projects in Iqaluit, Qikiqtarjuaq, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any general comments? I have no names on my list. We will now go to page 4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$1,900,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$1,900,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 5. Finance. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Comptrollership. Total Comptrollership. \$184,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Centrally Administered Funds. Total Centrally Administered Funds. -\$3,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$181,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 6. Education. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Corporate Services. Total Corporate Services. \$93,000. Do you agree? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the Repulse Bay High School, \$4,000, what is that going to be used for? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Mr. Chairman, the information we have is that this would be part of the design phase of the Repulse Bay High School. It's a multi-year project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Corporate Services. Total Corporate Services. \$93,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$93,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 7. Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$4,674,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister the question exactly who the contractor is that is building that requires additional funding of \$4 million to replace the health centre. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, the contractor is Kudlik Construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. This is the same contractor that built the Repulse Bay Health Centre. To my knowledge and information provided, they have not started the construction yet. The information the minister gave to the committee the other day was that they were the only bidders. Can the minister indicate exactly what the amount of their bid was to the Committee of the Whole? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, there's an RFP process. It was a competitive bidding process. When the bids closed, there was only one company, which was Kudlik Construction, and the information I have is their bid was \$25,866,800. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The company obviously has not spent a penny on the \$25 million yet or the government. Now, why would they need an additional \$4 million in anticipated budget shortfalls? Have they requested that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Just to clarify, the contract was awarded. Construction materials were

ordered. I believe construction is underway. The issue here is not on the construction side; it's the budget shortfall in the overall projects, which includes architectural engineering, project management fees, furniture, fixtures and equipment, and contingencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would appear to be that it was using the same architectural designs and so on that there would have been a cost savings rather than an anticipated additional \$4 million shortfall. How does this rationale fit in trying to explain to us to use the same architectural designs and all that, including not only Repulse Bay, I think that also applies for the Arctic Bay Health Centre eventually, that the additional \$4 million is really actually needed? Are we not just really picking an amount of dollars up in the air and just saying that we should allocate that amount even before the shortfalls have been requested or justified? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the issue that's identified with this particular project is, although it is a common design in Taloyoak, it's a different site location. So we had to make some adjustments to allow the building to fit on a different location than it is in Repulse Bay.

Also, the cost is quite simple. The construction costs came in higher than the three years earlier when Kudlik bid

on the Repulse Bay project. Inflation costs, construction inflation, and a different community to require to ship different materials into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on page 7. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$4,674,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$4,674,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 8. Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Program Management. Total Program Management. -\$31,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Total Department. -\$31,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 9. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. \$7,436,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Petroleum Products Division. Total Petroleum Products Division. -\$20,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$7,416,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 10. Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Transportation. Total Transportation. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a question in terms of we had approved funding, actually, over the last two capital periods for resurfacing of the Grise Fiord Airport. I see it's not on here as a capital carryover, yet in communicating with airport directors and the Hamlet of Grise Fiord, they're being told the work is not going to be done this year in Grise Fiord because there is no money. I was wondering if I could just get a clarification. If they're being told there's no money in the community and it's not showing up here as a decrease or an increase of money or a capital carryover, then I would like to know where that money is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, these are adjustments to the approved capital carryovers only. It has nothing to do with carryover funding. These are just adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that. Like I said, if there was an adjustment that needed to be made, it would show up on this page, and that's what I'm saying. I know the Minister of ED&T is on the other side over there and he's just really excited to tell me what's happening with the project.

Again, we're getting mixed messages from the community and from ED&T staff saying the money is not there. They're being told that their department doesn't have the money to do the project. If I could get an update as to why they're being told there isn't the money because, according to what Mr. Peterson just pointed out, the money should be there. If I could get clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Clarification, please, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Elliott is asking me questions and I don't have any information in front of me. I wish he would give me an opportunity to be prepared. I don't know what the community is telling Mr. Elliott, but the information that we are working with today is the adjustments to the capital carryovers. I have no information about what he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that, but I mentioned that I didn't expect the minister to have that level and detailed information. That is why I asked if he could defer the question to the

minister who could answer that question because he is sitting across from us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Minister Taptuna if he is prepared to answer that question for Mr. Elliott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Point of Order

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Not at all to try and disrupt anything or progress, but the item is not on the document that's in front of us. So the question raised by my colleague here is completely unrelated to the estimates submitted and, therefore, should be ruled out of order. Thank you.

Chairman: For clarification purposes, if I may, Mr. Elliott, will you ask the question again so I can make a ruling on it? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of the way the supplements work is we're either removing money from projects or adding money to projects because there needs to be shifts in money being allocated to projects or money taken away. So if the government does a good job and goes under budget, then there's extra money in the pot that gets reallocated.

I know that over the past two capital periods of allocating money, so for the

last two years of passing money in this House, we have all voted on money going to Grise Fiord for the resurfacing of the runway there. My understanding of the way the system works is if we're being told there is no money for a project, then it needs to show up in these supplementary appropriations to say that the money is being allocated and shifted somewhere else. So I guess maybe that's my question and I thought I asked that. If it's not here, where is the money?

Chairman: Please allow me to get a handle on this and I'll take a few minutes to consult with our staff here.

(interpretation) Thank you for your patience. I will disallow the question that was posed because it's not related to what we're discussing. If you ask that question during question period, it may be much easier for you, Mr. Elliott. Since I don't see any reference to the issue you raised and since it isn't encapsulated within the supplementary appropriation documentation, I will have to bar that particular question.

Do you have any further questions on that page, Mr. Elliott?

Mr. Elliott: I thought I did, Mr. Chairman, but obviously I didn't. I will respect the wish of the Chair. Thank you.

Chairman: And I appreciate you respecting the Chair. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Department of Economic Development and Transportation under Airport Improvements - Baker Lake, \$6,000, I just want to ask what's happening with

the airport improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Again, the -\$6,000 is a technical adjustment to the capital carryover from 2012-13 to 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on page 10. Transportation. Total Transportation. -\$480,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Total Department. -\$480,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page 2. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$13,753,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to Bill 68 in your legislation binder. We will be doing a clause-by-clause review of the bill. I believe you all have a copy of it in front of you. I will be following the English version. (interpretation ends) Bill 68, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will go to Schedule on page 3. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. \$13,753,000. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$13,753,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 1. 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): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 68 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 68 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have completed Bill 68. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of time, I move that the committee report progress. Thank you.

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

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3) and Bill 68 and would like to report that Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3) is concluded and that Bill 68 is now ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 68 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 68, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2013-2014*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. As such, Bill 68 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

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. A reminder that tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for September 11:

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 32
 - Bill 40
 - Bill 69
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, very much. Members, this House stands

adjourned until Wednesday, September
11, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

