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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Aivilik)

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)
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(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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(Quttiktuq)

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(Cambridge Bay)
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Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

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Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Member Mr. Shooyook, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Members, Ministers, and all Nunavummiut. Welcome. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 020 – 4(1):
Homeowners' Fuel Rebate**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is pleased to provide access to funding that directly assists homeowners in offsetting their home heating costs.

As of today, homeowners can apply for a one-time payment of \$500 under the

Homeowners' Fuel Rebate program. To qualify, homeowners must be a primary resident in their home from January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014. Detailed information on eligibility is now available on the Department of Finance website at gov.nu.ca/finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Arctic College, Paul Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 021 – 4(1):
Nunavut Arctic College and
University of Winnipeg Transfer
Agreement**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents in Aggu, the people of Igloodik and Nunavut, as well as my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, as the mineral exploration and mining sectors of our territorial economy continues to grow, so too will the need for a home-grown, skilled, and qualified workforce in the environmental sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to inform my fellow members that Nunavut Arctic College and the University of Winnipeg signed a memorandum of understanding last month which will see graduates of the college's Environmental Technology Diploma Program able to transfer into the University of Winnipeg's Bachelor of Science Degree program.

From wildlife officers to lab technicians, developing human capacity in the

environmental-related fields is important to our future success.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this partnership will build on our more than 25 years of success offering quality environmental technology programming and training in Nunavut. It also adds to the 2010 Nunavut and Manitoba memorandum of understanding signed at the Gateway Summit for collaboration between our jurisdictions.

Program transfer agreements have been an important practice at Nunavut Arctic College for many years. This new transfer credit agreement will see our graduates receive advanced standing in the four-year Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Systems.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we thank the University of Winnipeg for their commitment to Nunavut Arctic College, creating pathways that will provide expanded post-secondary education opportunities for our students and graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 022 – 4(1):
Crime Prevention Community
Engagement**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. In November 2013, the Department of Justice began a territory-wide engagement process on crime prevention. The goal of this process is to

learn from community successes, identify supports needed, and jointly develop a Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy. Rather than hire a consultant, engagement meetings are being conducted by community justice staff along with the community justice outreach workers in the communities.

I wish to express my appreciation to the community justice committees, the community justice outreach workers, and the public in the 16 communities visited to date for bringing valuable experience and knowledge to the meetings. The final nine communities will be visited through the spring. I encourage Nunavummiut to attend these crime prevention meetings and share their thoughts on crime and justice in Nunavut.

Inuit traditional justice, with a focus on prevention and healing, has an important role to play in our territory. With the full engagement of our communities, the forthcoming Crime Prevention Strategy will reflect the priorities and needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Tom Sammurток.

**Minister's Statement 023 – 4(1): Team
Nunavut Headed to 2014 Arctic
Winter Games**

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Team Nunavut is participating in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska from March 15 to 22, 2014.

(interpretation ends) The Arctic Winter Games is the world's largest northern multi-sport and cultural event. Team Nunavut will be sending a contingent of 279 participants that includes athletes, coaches, managers, mission staff, and cultural performers from communities across Nunavut.

Team Nunavut will participate in over 15 events at the Arctic Winter Games, including arctic sports, badminton, basketball, curling, Dene games, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, soccer, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling, and cultural events.

Mr. Speaker, these athletes, coaches, and participants will be representing Nunavut on the world stage. They have trained long and hard for the opportunity to participate in a high-level competition like the Arctic Winter Games. I know we all feel a sense of great pride when they raise the Nunavut flag at the opening ceremonies.

(interpretation) I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our territorial sport organizations, coaches, parents, and volunteers who help all year long to provide our athletes with opportunities to train and compete in sports in their communities. Without them, none of this would be possible.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during break this afternoon, three members of Team Nunavut will be here at the legislature to officially unveil the uniforms that Team Nunavut will be wearing throughout the Arctic Winter Games. In addition, they will also present to the Premier a commemorative pin set that Team Nunavut will trade

with other teams at the Arctic Winter Games.

I invite all Members of the House to join me in the foyer at break time to greet our Team Nunavut athletes and take part in the uniform unveiling and pin presentation ceremony. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 059 – 4(1): Ensuring All Nunavummiut Have Health Insurance Coverage

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Iqaluit and Niaqunnguu. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring forward an issue that is of growing concern to a small but significant sector of our population: those Nunavut residents who are not covered under the same health insurance programs as most other residents.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, many non-Inuit moved to the north for work and adventure and spent much of their working lives helping to provide services and developing this territory into what it is today. Many of these individuals settled here, raising families and making Nunavut their home.

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavut residents are covered under the Nunavut Health Care Plan, but some health services are not covered under that plan. Employers across the territory, such as the Government of Nunavut, provide health insurance benefits to their employees to help cover these additional costs. In addition, non-insured health benefits are provided to Inuit and other aboriginals across Canada to cover certain costs. However, when non-Inuit residents of Nunavut reach retirement age and their employment ceases, they no longer have the same level of health insurance coverage provided to them to cover certain costs related to receiving medical services.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our government does have an extended health benefits program which is available to non-beneficiaries who are 65 years and older or to those who have a chronic disease or illness. However, I have learned that it falls to the individual resident to apply for that program. If they don't apply for it and end up in a situation where they require medical services out of the territory, for example, they can end up incurring huge personal costs.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006, there were 84 non-Inuit residents over the age of 65 across the whole of Nunavut. By 2013, that number had grown to 317 individuals.

I appreciate that the amount of funding allocated by the Department of Health to the Extended Health Benefits Program has been significantly increased in recent years and I commend the government for recognizing the growing need.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much appreciated.

I appreciate that the amount of funding allocated by the Department of Health to the Extended Health Benefits Program has been significantly increased in recent years and I commend the government for recognizing the growing need. However, if the funding cannot be accessed by those who need it, then it is wasted effort.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it behooves our government to take a proactive approach and reach out to those Nunavut residents who do not have adequate health insurance coverage and ensure that they apply for it before it is too late.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Member's Statement 060 – 4(1): A Growing Need for End-of-Life Care

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to applaud the Minister of Finance's announcement and

appreciate the quick action from his department for my question last week. I look forward to this trend continuing from there.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a sobering issue, but one that we must address sooner rather than later: the need for end-of-life care.

Mr. Speaker, although it is widely known that the largest sector of Nunavut's population, almost 50 percent, is under the age of 24, the numbers of our elderly and aging residents are growing steadily. From 2006 to 2012, Nunavut's population over the age of 65 grew from 810 individuals to 1,244.

Mr. Speaker, our aging population deserves the best quality of care in the later years of their lives. Staying near to their families, communities, culture, and people is critical to their comfort and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, a report released last November by the Health Council of Canada indicated that elderly Inuit receive dramatically lower quality health care than their non-aboriginal peers in southern Canada. This situation must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I noted last week that the federal health minister announced an investment of \$3 million into palliative, end-of-life care over the next three years. The funding will be directed to the Pallium Foundation of Canada and will focus on training frontline health care workers.

Mr. Speaker, despite the growing impact of chronic or life-threatening diseases,

northern populations do not have access to palliative and end-of-life care in the same way that populations in southern Canada do.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that Nunavut's health care professionals and other caregivers are given adequate support and training to help ease the strain on families who are dealing with palliative and end-of-life care issues. I encourage the government to address this issue in a proactive and timely manner.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

**Member's Statement 061 – 4(1):
Arctic Winter Games Participants
from Arctic Bay**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my pride in my community.

As everyone knows, the Arctic Winter Games are in Alaska. There are 14 athletes from Arctic Bay who will be partaking in the Games in Alaska. Part of the entourage will be participating in the Dene games, as well as Inuit games.

I am very proud of these athletes, as most of them are youth, both young women and men. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member's Statement 062 – 4(1):
Appreciation of Search and Rescue
Teams in Nunavut**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today by first sending a good day greeting to the people of Baker Lake and I also include a smile to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a youthful person and, up to the time when I was elected to this Legislative Assembly, I used to volunteer for the search and rescue team.

Every time someone requires assistance or if someone is lost, we need to do search and rescue and it is quite challenging and difficult at times. They work very hard and they volunteer. Search and rescue teams work very hard to save individuals' lives, and sometimes the outcome is positive and sometimes the outcome is not positive.

For that reason, I congratulate all the search and rescue teams in Nunavut. I feel for you and I know that you are very strong. I am an experienced search and rescue team individual myself. To all the search and rescue teams of Nunavut, I congratulate you and I will be in support of all your work.

During my tenure here, I will be making statements in regard to search and rescue teams in Nunavut. I know that we all feel for the individuals who get lost out on the land, even though they are not in our communities.

With that, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the question to the minister responsible for search and rescue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 063 – 4(1):
Canadian Rangers Training
Program**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and to the people of Cape Dorset, Lake Harbour, and Nunavut. In Cape Dorset, we just lost an individual and I send my condolences to the family.

I rise today to recognize and express my pride in both the rangers and the junior rangers.

There was recently a training program offered in Kananskis, Alberta for members of these groups. Two of my constituents who were travelling there happened to run into me as they were passing through Iqaluit. These two people are Nikki Michael and Brian Padluq. They took part in the training program of the rangers.

I encourage Nunavummiut to apply for any kind of training program offered.

I would like to congratulate these two individuals for completing their training program, going outside of Nunavut to take the ranger course. I, too, would like to acknowledge these two individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more

names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge Leetia Nowdlak. (interpretation ends) Leetia Nowdlak is originally from Apex and now she lives in Ottawa and she's working for Sen. Dennis Patterson. We miss her here very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. I also would like to welcome the person who has been recognized.

Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 047 – 4(1): Search and Rescue Initiatives

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The most recent annual report of Nunavut's Emergency Management Organization, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 1, 2012, indicates that the department has been purchasing equipment on an annual

basis to provide to local search and rescue committees.

In Baker Lake, there is a need for such equipment as up-to-date computers to prepare reports and mobile equipment to help with ground searches.

Can the minister indicate how his department works with local search and rescue committees to identify their equipment needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do provide funding for such things as air searches; some parts for equipment for snowmobiles and boating equipment; radios and satellite phones, including the fees for use of satellite phones; gasoline and supplies. However, we have not had any dialogue regarding computers at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister responsible for search and rescue for his response. The most recent annual report of Nunavut's Emergency Management Organization also indicates that the department has been using its position as co-chair of the Northern Round Table on Search and Rescue to "bring issues forward to all agencies involved in search and rescue."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that the federal government's goal of asserting arctic sovereignty needs to be backed up with enhanced support to organizations in the north that are active in the area of search and rescue.

Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Northern Round Table on Search and Rescue to lobby Ottawa for increased support for search and rescue activities, equipment, and infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I don't have the proper answer for his question at this point, if Mr. Speaker would allow me to get more information, I would be happy to respond to the question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes.

(interpretation) Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency of Baker Lake, local search and rescue volunteers do not have any permanent space for holding meetings or storing equipment. Can the minister indicate if his department is looking at ways to provide funding for local search and rescue committees to acquire permanent facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We currently do not have any funding for minor or major capital plans to fund equipment for search and rescue. However, during the Baffin mayors' meeting here, CGS agreed to meet with municipalities to look at partnership options to supply equipment for search and rescue and we are also looking at options of transferring surplus equipment and snowmobiles and boating equipment for search and rescue purposes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 048 – 4(1): Corrections and Parole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituency in Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice.

A number of my constituents have requested assistance in advocating for the early release of Gjoa Haven residents who are serving prison sentences in either territorial or federal correctional facilities.

Although I recognize that Members of the Legislative Assembly cannot interfere in the judicial system, it is important that the public have a clear understanding of what processes are in place with respect to such matters as granting parole or conditional release. For example, it is my understanding that

members of the public may attend Parole Board of Canada hearings as observers.

Can the minister indicate if his department's probation officers are in a position to assist members of the public in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, these duties are the responsibility of the federal government, currently being reviewed through a federal law review. In particular, the emphasis is on victims and how they can be more involved through this legislation. This is part of the federal review of their legislation.

However, with respect to inmates incarcerated in our territory in which we are involved in that area, it doesn't extend to reducing the sentences of inmates. That is the role of the courts during sentencing. Our primary role is to provide options in the person's healing process or how to ensure that we reduce recidivism amongst our inmate population.

Here in Iqaluit, there is also a half-way house for inmates who are nearing their release dates. They're provided with courses and whatnot for their reintegration into their community upon final release. These are the types of activities this government provides.

We have no authority to reduce the sentences handed out, whether it is the number of years or months, as that is under the jurisdiction of our court system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akoak, your first supplementary.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. Mr. Speaker, section 39 of the territorial *Corrections Act* provides for the establishment of a territorial parole board. However, it is not clear if the board is actually operational. Can the minister clarify the role of the Territorial Parole Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is primarily under the jurisdiction of the federal government, although the territorial government is requested to carry out this task from time to time. We do support them by collaborating with their administration on inmates who are ready for release by providing a planned reintegration, such as job search assistance. That is how we provide assistance when these inmates are still incarcerated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. Section 41 of the territorial *Corrections Act* provides that an inmate "may apply for parole himself or herself or any person may apply on behalf of the inmate." Can the minister indicate what information is available from his department to explain the parole application process to members of the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This process follows the legislation governing release of inmates and support systems, which is part of federal government responsibilities. There are changes from time to time, but at this time, we don't have anything available. The federal government, however, is currently reviewing the existing legislation and perhaps, after that review, revisions may be made to how it can be implemented here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 049 – 4(1): Amendments to the Nunavut Fur Harvester Program

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Environment.

This great country of ours, Canada, was founded in fur trade. Fur trade migrated up to NWT and onto Nunavut when we became Nunavut.

The Department of Environment has a very good fur program, but there is always room for improvement. Right now, with their fur program, they only pay the shipping of fur to one fur auction house. I believe that is sole sourcing.

Other trappers and hunters would like to ship their fur to different fur buyers, but the Department of Environment will not

pay the shipping unless the fur is going to a particular fur buyer. In our region in the Kivalliq and in my community of Arviat, about 90 percent of the fur value is shipped to other fur buyers other than this one fur buyer that the government supports.

There are always ways to improve it. I would like to ask the minister if he would consider paying the shipping of fur to a legitimate fur buyer from a legitimate fur seller, a hunter and trapper. Administratively, it is already set up to ship fur. The only difference would be that fur would be shipped to a different fur buyer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking a question about that matter.

I certainly hope I am audible over that rumble.

>>*Laughter*

I apologize. That rotary sound drowned us out.

Indeed, I would ask that the member clarify his question so that it is completely understandable.

Every person has complete freedom in selling their furs. The role carried out by the government seems to be working fine, and I've never heard any complaints about the government process.

Maybe you can explain further as to what you mean in your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can you explain it more clearly, please. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a hunter or trapper is shipping their furs south to a fur buyer, the Department of Environment will pay the shipping of the fur to only one particular fur buyer. They will not pay the shipping of the fur to a different fur buyer. In my mind, the government is supporting only one fur buyer.

I believe everyone should be treated equally and fairly. Therefore, I think the government should pay for the shipping of fur to any fur buyer where the hunter or trapper feels they can get the best price and the best service for their product. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. From what we know now in the Department of Environment, the GN marketing agent for skins and fur products, the market has been quite strong. That's all I can say, right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Minister of Environment again: will the minister start paying the shipping of fur to

different fur buyers, not just one particular fur buyer, if the hunter or trapper so chooses to sell their fur elsewhere? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. This matter he is asking about is undoubtedly something we can clarify further down the road, but at this time, I can stand and state that we currently can't do what is suggested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his clear answer of no, that he will not pay the shipping. So I ask the minister: will he explain to the House at a later date or now why he is sole sourcing to only one fur buyer? In essence, that is what is happening. The government is paying the shipping of fur to only one fur buyer. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, we have a marketing agent who has been working with the government for some time. Further, the process used by the Nunavut government for furs is a good one and the prices fetched are generally accepted with good returns on their sale. That is how it stands currently.

Every hunter has a freedom of choice and they can choose independently where they wish to sell their furs to. This practice continues and that is the way it is set up currently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 050 – 4(1): Support for Home-based Caregivers

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

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that many of us will have family members or know of families where a relative needs extra support in their daily lives. Sometimes these individuals need a lot of support and love every single day. Many of us wish to keep our family members close to home, whether they are older, disabled, or suffering from a severe health problem.

Can the minister provide information on what kinds of programs or supports are available to individuals who provide significant care to a family member in their own home? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My brother-in-law's question, can you please explain what you are talking about? Are you talking about elders who need to be helped in their homes by nurses? Can you explain what you are talking about? Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Shooyook, can you explain your question further, please.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I will repeat what I said.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that many of us will have family members or know of families where a relative needs extra support in their daily lives. Sometimes these individuals need a lot of support and love every single day. Many of us wish to keep our family members close to home, whether they are older, disabled, or suffering from a severe health problem.

Can the minister provide information on what kinds of programs or supports are available to individuals who provide significant care to a family member in their own home? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for asking a very good question. In efforts to keep people in their communities, we have nurses in the communities who do home visits so that many people can get health care in their homes. Almost all of the communities have home care nurses. Also, people who are not able to live at home anymore are sent to facilities with 10 or more beds. We also have continuing care centres in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I am sure the minister will agree that keeping someone in their own home, with the love of their family around them, is the best environment for them to be in. Can the minister clarify whether or not her department will provide financial assistance to an individual who looks after a very disabled family member in their home for 24 hours a day?

I believe that it is very important to support all Nunavummiut with disabling health conditions to stay at home, in their communities, and in Nunavut and live their daily lives close to their families. Will the minister commit to reviewing the supports and resources that are available to home-based caregivers across Nunavut and to increase those supports and resources wherever possible?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that matter in his question. The funds the member was asking about have two separate purposes, one for home care provision for elders or if a doctor has specified certain services for a patient.

In 2013-14, the Gjoa Haven home care budget was set at \$2,779,000 while the Igloolik home care budget was set at \$2,184,000. The other fund is specific to nurses who provide home care services to elders, and in 2013-14, with the

inclusion of the training funds, totals \$265,590,000.

Additionally, the nurses who provide services to patients with health problems may require equipment, such as wheelchairs, to provide that service. It can also include shopping if the patient is unable to do that. I certainly hope that my response was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Shooyook. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 051 – 4(1): Cape Dorset Housing Authority

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in 2011, the Cape Dorset Housing Authority was formally established by way of a ministerial order made under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*. Prior to this time, local housing matters were being administered by the municipality.

Concerns have been raised with me that there are a number of unresolved issues resulting from this transition, including concerns related to the municipality incurring a deficit as a consequence of funds being held back by the Nunavut Housing Corporation that were intended to support local housing operations. Can the minister indicate if he has been made aware of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good day” to the people of Arviat, Whale Cove, and Nunavut. I would like him to clarify what the concerns are. I didn’t quite understand the question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Would you rephrase your question, please, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: I guess, to repeat myself, there have been concerns that have been raised with me... .

Speaker (interpretation): One moment, please. I apologize. We will have to stop the clock because you have been asked to repeat your question. Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In 2011, the Cape Dorset Housing Authority was formally established by way of a ministerial order [made] under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*. Prior to this time, local housing matters were being administered by the municipality.

Concerns have been raised with me that there are a number of unresolved issues resulting from this transition, including concerns related to the municipality incurring a deficit as a consequence of funds being held back by the Nunavut Housing Corporation that were intended to support local housing operations. Can the minister indicate if he has been made

aware of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. During oral question period when you are repeatedly asked to rephrase your question, I will be giving extra time or stopping the clock. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. I would like to know exactly what types of concerns were raised in the community. I don’t have that information in front of me, so I will have to get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

>>*Laughter*

Sorry about that. He has left. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 052 – 4(1): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in my chair, Mr. Speaker.

My questions are directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the minister tabled a copy of the 2012-13 Annual Report of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. The primary purpose of this fund is to promote the wise use of wildlife through education, training, and research.

Can the minister explain if his department has funded any projects under its Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 053 – 4(1): Ensuring All Nunavummiut Have Health Insurance Coverage

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today in my Member's Statement, I spoke of the need to ensure that those Nunavut residents who may require health insurance coverage are assisted in applying for it.

Can the minister clarify what is in place to inform and advise Nunavut residents about their health insurance coverage

and what steps they must take to ensure they have adequate coverage in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I believe the member is asking questions about extended health benefits. At this time, I would say that the department has identified that there is a need to better communicate the existence and eligibility requirements of extended health benefits to Nunavummiut. Information is currently available on the website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, your first supplementary.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's population statistics show that a relatively small number of Nunavut residents are aged 65 and over and not covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. Can the minister clearly explain what prevents her departmental staff from taking a proactive role in contacting these individuals and ensuring that they have adequate health insurance coverage in case they need it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The extended health benefits are available from the Department of Health

to provide assistance to eligible persons in Nunavut who require health care services beyond those that are covered under the Nunavut Health Care Plan. These extended health benefits are normally to be at the last resort. It's for those individuals who might have maxed out the current insurance that they may have.

Currently, we are working to extend the Extended Health Benefits Policy because it's about to end at the end of the month and we're hoping to extend it for another year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I didn't hear, I guess, an answer I was looking for to my question, I will go onto my next one.

In some jurisdictions across Canada, third party health insurance programs are available through such companies as Alberta Blue Cross. Can the minister describe what steps have been taken to work with entities such as Alberta Blue Cross to provide health insurance coverage to individuals who may wish to purchase it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to explain that the Nunavut Extended Health Benefits Program is a program that is determined by the national board with Health Canada and that all the territories participate in decisions that are made

under this and that ITK has a seat on the table. We would have to sit with those entities to make changes to the extended health benefits.

The Blue Cross that she mentioned is a separate insurance program, which we could look at what they do. We are currently working to also look at what all the other provinces do with their extended health programs so that we could be more consistent with the programs that they provide. That is a part of what we will be looking at and why we want a one-year extension is so that we can look at those and other programs before we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 054 – 4(1): Purpose of Acquiring Old Health Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, the old health centre that is no longer used in Repulse Bay was handed over to the Department of Education. Do you know what this old health centre is going to be used for now in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel humbled that this is the very first question

directed to me from the member across the aisle.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, regarding the member's question, this is the first time I hear about your old health centre and I do apologize for that. I will look into it and respond to you appropriately.
(interpretation ends) I will take this question for advisement.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to the minister's response, I am now unsure what more to ask, but I will await his response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 055 – 4(1): Providing Support for End-Of-Life Care

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

Mr. Speaker, in my member's Statement earlier today, I addressed the growing need for training and support to provide palliative and end-of-life care to Nunavut residents and their families.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what programs and services are currently available to provide training, support, and care to address palliative and end-of-life needs across Nunavut's communities and to what extent palliative and end-of-

life services are currently being delivered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there were two questions in there. I will try to answer one of them.

Palliative care education and training is being planned for home and community care workers and continuing care workers in 2014-15. The first delivery will take place in the Kitikmeot area/ The end-of-life resource tool for caregivers entitled "A Caregiver's Guide," a handbook about end-of-life care, was delivered in 2006 and is available in all four languages through the Home and Community Care Program.

I would also like to say that Health accesses palliative care training and education materials from St. Elizabeth Health Care because they have a First Nations and Inuit focus. Health will consider the Pallium educational resources as well, as we heard that they got a huge chunk of money earlier this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Hickes, your first supplementary question.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish it was a huge chunk of money, but \$3 million allocated over three years nationally isn't really a lot of money for the training and educational tools for caregivers delivering end-of-life care.

Can the minister clarify whether her department has looked into accessing palliative and end-of-life training and educational opportunities for Nunavut's health care givers in addition to existing [ones]? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, Health has accessed resources from Pallium in the past and from places like LEAD modules and the Pallium palliative care pocketbook.

At the present, the department uses resources and training, as I mentioned, from St. Elizabeth Health Care because they have a First Nations and Inuit focus to their materials which is absent from Pallium's existing resources.

The department may consider accessing their materials in the future, and we will wait to see how they choose to use the recently announced federal funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 056 – 4(1): Grants and Contributions in Support of Harvesters Policy

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut. I have a question to my *Angajusakuluk*, the Minister of Environment.

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for the minister's recent comments concerning his support for the hunters and fishers in his constituency. Our hearts are clearly in the same place.

My questions to the minister today will be short and to the point. I know for a fact that my *Angajusakuluk* will respond to my questions properly.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I have been calling for a review of his department's policy on grants and contributions in support of harvesters, which includes the Disaster Compensation Program. This program is very important to all hunters in Nunavut. Will the minister commit to reviewing this program, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you talking about the fishermen's compensation or hunters as well and disaster compensation? I am not sure which one you want me to review. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): I will stop the clock for a moment while Mr. Enook clarifies his question. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the policy for the Disaster Compensation Program, whether the loss is associated with the ice or weather. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, his question is one that I appreciate and at this time, I can state to the member that the program has been heavily used both in past years as well as to the year-end of this fiscal year.

The Disaster Compensation Program has been quite beneficial as hunters generally request assistance when their equipment is damaged by severe weather. Now, in this year, there were a lot of applicants to this program when their equipment was damaged.

I can state at this time that if the member is referring to his community applications, those applications will be reviewed this month for equipment in Pond Inlet that was damaged. I can't say whether the program criteria will be subject to further review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2005, nearly nine years ago, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated undertook a joint review of harvester support programs. One of the recommendations in the final report from this review was that the GN and NTI should work more closely together to develop and administer programs to assist hunters who suffer equipment losses. Will the minister commit to working with NTI on this issue, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Our working together with NTI is ongoing. That is all I can state at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The HTOs of Nunavut are among the most affected. The input of our territory's hunters and trappers organizations is critical to ensuring that our government's programs in support of harvesters are appropriate and adequate to their needs. Will the minister commit to formally inviting all HTO chairs to submit recommendations to him concerning his department's programs in support of harvesters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, in this day and age, based on this government, particularly the Department of Environment, for damages caused by severe weather, the (interpretation ends) Disaster Compensation Program (interpretation) and the Wildlife Damage Fund are there for that.

To date, with respect to disaster compensation, the amount in this fund has been \$80,000. Because that money has not been fully accessed, some of the

funds were put into the Wildlife Damage Fund to replace harvesters' equipment. The amount is about \$40,000 in each of these funds. This was to try to place the funds where they were needed.

As per my earlier response, these types of incidents seem to go in cycles, with more damages in one year and less in the following year, and that is also why this fund was set aside. Also, the \$80,000 has been adequate to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 057 – 4(1): Department of Environment Expenditures

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased with the opportunity to raise further questions. I also send good day greetings to the residents of Baker Lake. However, my question will be directed to the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Environment's 2013-14 main estimates indicates that the department's current annual budget for providing core operating funding to each of Nunavut's 25 hunters and trappers organizations is \$317,000. This works out to just \$12,680 per HTO.

Mr. Speaker, this budget has remained unchanged for a number of years. Can the minister indicate if his department is reviewing this budget in anticipation of the introduction of the 2014-15 main estimates, which will be considered by the Legislative Assembly

during the upcoming spring sitting?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the member for asking that question. This budget has not changed for many years, but we are provided a budget by the federal government through an agreement. At this time, that is how it is. It's true when you said that the budget has not been changed for a long time. That's all I can reply with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment's annual budget for providing core operating funding to each of Nunavut's three regional wildlife organizations has also remained unchanged for a number of years, as has the department's annual budget for its Community Harvesters Assistance Program. Can the minister indicate if these amounts will be reviewed prior to the introduction of next year's main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, that is the way it is set up currently. I can't say whether any changes will occur.

However, these matters can be reviewed, and it's obvious that after a review, there would have to be deliberations on what is needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to "finalize a grizzly bear management plan for Nunavut." Can the minister indicate if his department has been providing funding for HTOs, including Baker Lake's HTO, to participate in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will take that as notice.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken this as notice.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 058 – 4(1): Nunavut Fur Harvesters Program

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of Environment. Today is Fur Day.

>>Laughter

As the minister stated earlier, this is a good fur program and he is correct. He has a good fur program. One of the furs that are bought through Environment's fur program is foxes. In my community, lots of foxes are bought through his fur program.

As the minister is aware, there is a second payment on foxes that are sold at the fur auction of \$13 per fox to the trapper. These amounts have not changed since the NWT days. It has been \$13 since before Nunavut and the price of gas, the price of snowmobiles, the price of traps, the price of everything has gone up. The purpose of this second payment of \$13 is to help the trapper buy that stuff. It's not issued to the trapper when the fur is bought. It's a second payment at a later date.

Would the minister look into raising this amount to a modest amount, to maybe \$25 or something like that? It has been \$13 since NWT and \$13 back then bought a lot more than \$13 does today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know. The Northwest Territories in Inuktitut is called "Nunatsiaq," meaning a wonderful land, and it must have been majestic because we keep recalling those days. NWT is called Nunatsiaq still.

Indeed, the status of the member's question about that is truthful because the funds seem to be carved in stone and they have remained static for many years. What I can say about that right

now is that this matter that he asked about can be reviewed, including the prices which haven't changed. I can say that we can look at reviewing that. As well, in saying that, if changes are made, then I will provide further information at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for a positive answer and I am looking forward to the results of his investigation or looking into raising the price of the second payment for foxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I am sorry. That was your first supplementary question, Mr. Savikataaq. Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, no more questions. (interpretation) Thank you. Item 7. Oral Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) Item 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 001 – 4(1): Public Housing Shortage in Gjoa Haven

Petition 002 – 4(1): Eye Team Visits into Hamlet of Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting two petitions on behalf of my constituents in Gjoa Haven.

The first petition, which was signed by 264 residents, concerns the public housing shortage in Gjoa Haven.

The second petition, which was signed by 114 residents, concerns eye team visits to Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 016 – 4(1): 2012-2013 Annual Report – Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As per my commitment of yesterday, I am pleased to table the 2012-13 Annual Report of the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister, Mr. Kuksuk.

Tabled Document 017 – 4(1): 2014-2015 Planned Construction, Land Acquisition and Development Report

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 2014-15

Planned Construction, Land Acquisition and Development Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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. Bill 2 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

I apologize. (interpretation ends) Mr. Sammurtok raised his hand. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister seeks unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are none. Proceed, Mr. Sammurtok.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the distinct honour and privilege to recognize two young athletes who will be representing Nunavut during the Arctic Winter

Games in Fairbanks, Alaska, Nick Kolola and Jasmine Oolayou.

>>*Applause*

Again I invite the House to the foyer during the break. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:33*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Good afternoon to our fellow Nunavummiut and our audience on the radio and television. Welcome, everyone.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the capital main estimates for the Department Community and Government Services, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree that we deal with the capital main estimates for the Department of

Community and Government Services and, if time permits, the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Sammurtok, (interpretation) for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Deputy Minister of CGS Roy Green and on my left is the Director of Financial Services, Bu Lam. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) Mr. Green and Mr. Lam, once again, welcome to the House. (interpretation) When we adjourned yesterday, we were on page J-3 in English and G-3 in Inuktitut. I had a list of names of MLAs who wanted to ask questions. I will just continue with that list. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions at this time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) My apologies. (interpretation) Questions. Let me go to my list. On page 3, Community and Government Services. Capital Planning. Total Capital Expenditures. \$20,588,000. Do you all agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Now on page J-5. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister in regards to petroleum. When petroleum is brought into Nunavut, they try to make it so that it is enough for the whole year. The price gets increased and when the price is going to be increased, the Committee of the Whole or the Members Caucus, we don't seem to hear beforehand about that. Is that the way it works? Even before it goes to the MLAs, are we able to increase the price of petroleum products? That's what I would like to understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Mapsalak. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to that question about fuel price increases. It is handled by the Financial Management Board. They do the review

and see how the revenue is going and then they adjust the price accordingly. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. Mr. Mapsalak, do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies as well. I understood it the other way around. The budget for the Petroleum Products Division, this budget is for petroleum and fuel products only?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fuel tank expansion program. Some communities' fuel tanks are too few or too small, then that money is used to expand them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a long time now, I'm sure your department has heard that the people of Repulse Bay have requested for them for airplane fuel. Nothing has ever been built. It would decrease a lot of prices if we could do that. Has your department looked into this at all? Have you ever heard about the request from the past at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like to get my deputy

minister to respond to that, Mr. Roy Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is nothing in the capital plan at this time for an expansion or an upgrade to the tank farm in Repulse Bay. Each year the Petroleum Products Division does an analysis of their tank farms across the territory and does a capacity analysis to determine whether there is a required increase in the capacity of tank farms. Once those are identified, they're brought forward in the capital plan for consideration. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the fuel delivery contracts, I noticed that there is a lot of tank farm infrastructure that is provided through the capital estimates. Are any of the contractors on the fuel delivery side of things provided with any infrastructure dollars, as far as for vehicle replacement and that type of material? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. I can respond to it. I may not answer it directly, so I'd like to get Deputy Minister Roy Green to respond to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fuel vehicles that are used in the communities are all financed through the

Petroleum Products Revolving Fund, instead of in the GN capital. So they create a capital account within the revolving fund to purchase those fuel trucks as needed in the communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if those materials are being purchased out of the revolving fund, what kind of oversight is there on making sure that only the needed infrastructure is purchased under that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order for that to be answered properly, I will defer that question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Petroleum Products Revolving Fund is audited each year by a chartered accounting firm that provides the oversight of all the expenditures that are processed through the revolving fund. At the same time, the OAG does also review the financial statements produced by the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much. I appreciate that answer. With most

budgetary items, they're approved in the legislature, which gives us an opportunity to publicly address any concerns or to have some oversight on spending. With it being done through the petroleum revolving fund, it takes that away from us, but any purchases through that fund directly impact us with the fuel prices.

So I guess I'm a little bit at a loss to even know where to go with this next little step. I just find a little bewildering that there are outside sources that are impacting the cost of our fuel for our residents of Nunavut. I'm not sure if there's a question in there, Mr. Chairman, but if I could get a response from the minister. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for bringing that up. I would like my deputy minister to provide a response. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost to purchase the fuel trucks are recovered through the retail price of fuel that is built into the cost arrangement.

The previous arrangement under the revolving fund was that the fuel trucks were bought by the contractors themselves and they were funded through a commission through the revolving fund, but that was changed back, I think, around 2001-02 rather than have the trucks purchased through the commission and at the end of the

contract, the fuel contractors owned the vehicles.

It was determined that it would be more appropriate that the GN own the vehicles. If and when there was a changeover at the expiration of the term of the contract, then the vehicles would be available for the new fuel distribution operators that took over the contract. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman. With this changeover, like a strategy on the supply of vehicles to our fuel delivery contractors, would it be safe for me assume, I know I should never assume anything, there was some tracking involved into analyzing whether that has increased or decreased the contract expenses and would again have a direct impact on the fuel pricing that we charge our residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My deputy minister can answer that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have done analyses and we certainly had the OAG to take a look at this decision when we switched from paying through a commission to a fuel distribution contract versus purchasing the fuel through the revolving fund and

amortizing it over the usefulness of its life. Based on the analysis that was done at time, it was cost-neutral. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your budget amounts, you show three communities getting a fair amount of money in the budget; Cambridge Bay, \$5.2 million; Coral Harbour, \$2.9 million; and Sanikiluaq, \$2.8 million. I know that construction in Cambridge Bay has already started. Do you anticipate construction in Coral Harbour and Sanikiluaq to begin this summer or are you anticipating delays? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This construction project for Coral Harbour has just recently started, and the construction schedule begins in 2014 so that is when it will be starting. Further, with respect to Sanikiluaq, that (interpretation ends) tender (interpretation) will be let in the spring, actually in this month. The tender will be let at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sammurток. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the tender being out, will construction actually start this year, or will it depend on whether the tenders come in within budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. To have that answered properly, I will defer that question to Bu Lam. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lam.

Mr. Lam: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. All awarding of contracts are subject to budget being in place. In the event of a significant budget overrun, there is consideration and discussion with the Financial Management Board to seek approval to grant those contracts. That is a condition with every construction project that we undertake. In the event of Sanikiluaq, we anticipate that the construction budget that's been set aside for that project is sufficient for us to proceed, but, again, we will have to wait for the tender results from the public tendering process to make that determination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My question to the minister is in reference to Baker Lake, it's also to receive a bulk fuel storage capacity increase. My question here is: will that be sufficient? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer that properly, I'd like Bu Lam to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Lam.

Mr. Lam: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. In Baker Lake construction has begun on the tank farm project already. We are anticipating that this year will be the second year of construction, and likely, the final year of construction. The funding there is simply for warranty and closeout for that project in the following fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the construction still being in place, and when it is completed, will they start making use of it right off the bat before or after the shipping season? Or will that have to go through inspection? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Roy Green to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the tank farm is completed, and all the code inspections have been certified and proved, typically, we'll bring those tank farms into production immediately. They can start taking fuel, so typically, if we're in year two of this construction, and if it's completed by the end of this re-supply, then we will make provisions to bring additional fuel into Baker Lake to store in that particular tank that they're building in the community right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there definite dates that the department could provide to my community and to me as to when they will be using this bulk fuel storage, considering the community with the influx does run out of gasoline from time to time in the spring? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Yes, I can give you a date once I have the information and we will inform you. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for his response. I had asked the question, whether it has to be inspected prior to its use. We know, that in Nunavut getting sealift and getting fuel delivered into the communities only have a window of one or two months.

Are we going to have enough time to have it inspected and be put to use?
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer this question to Mr. Lam.

Chairman: Mr. Lam.

Mr. Lam: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project in Baker Lake and we understand the member is concerned about re-supply timing. We have done an analysis to make sure that there are sufficient quantities in Baker Lake to complete with the project as its intended timeline.

However, in the situation where fuel supplies may be required, there are other options, such as fly in. We try to avoid that by timing the time in which the re-supply ship comes in to refill the capacity in the tank farm and we will be working very closely with the community too, as well as within PPD to make sure that the timing of the ship this year doesn't produce any unnecessary burden on the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lam. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question in reference to that is, when you have a number of these bulk fuel tanks within the community, does the department also take into consideration of a fuel spill back up plan? For example, an additional empty tank for safety reasons to meet the codes? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to Mr. Green. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the event that there is a fuel spill

within the tank farm, there is a line berm within the facilities to make sure... that prevents any fuel spill from leaking out into the environment. We also have what is called slot tanks within the community that we can transfer any contaminated fuel into those tanks to reduce the risk of this seeping into the environment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Mikkungwak, are you done with your questions? Total Capital Expenditures. \$12,100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to J-2. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Mission. Detail of expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$32,688,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister, at the conclusion of your department, if you have any closing comments, you now have the opportunity. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. I would like to thank you for your questions and I look forward to your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. As we proceed, I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out.

We will proceed with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Allow me 5 minutes to get prepared for the next department. During that time, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation can go to the witness table. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:02 and resumed at 16:04

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): At this time, we had already agreed that we will deal with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would like to welcome Minister Kuksuk for going up to the witness table. If you are ready, Minister Kuksuk, you can proceed with your opening comments. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you and good afternoon to the people of Nunavut. Good afternoon, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be reading my opening comments in English.

(interpretation ends) The corporation's capital plan for 2014-15 consists of

\$30,230,000 from the Government of Nunavut and additional funding of \$4,290,000 from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), for a total capital budget of \$34,520,000.

The 2014-15 capital estimates highlights are:

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for the Modernization and Improvement (M&I) public housing renovations, homeownership programs, the Mobile Equipment Fund, the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program, and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program remain at approximately the same level as last year.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for the Fire Damage and Replacement Fund will decrease by \$611,000 to \$2,789,000 in 2014-15. This funding includes \$1 million for fire damage repairs and \$1,789,000 for insurance deductibles and replacement units. Furthermore, NHC will receive increased funding of \$10 million for the construction of greatly needed public housing units.

Under the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Program, the corporation continues to construct new units and renovate older staff housing units in communities with the greatest needs.

I am pleased to report that the Nunavut Housing Trust has completed delivery of all 726 units scheduled and all 285 units funded by the CMHC Affordable Housing Initiative under Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Construction through the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan has improved our ability to fulfill our mandate, but there is still a significant need for additional housing units. The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey showed that 3,580 more units are immediately required. Furthermore, we estimate that an additional 90 units will be required each year to keep pace with population growth based on current Nunavut Bureau of Statistics projections and the proportion of the population currently dependent on public housing.

Based on an average cost of \$400,000 per unit and the 2013-14 total Government of Nunavut capital estimates of just over \$153 million, it would take 12 years at today's prices for the Government of Nunavut to eliminate the current housing shortfall and meet the need being created by population growth if 100 percent of capital spending were directed toward construction of new public housing units and these units continued to be supplied as GN owned public housing in the same manner as in the past.

Furthermore, net annual funding received from CMHC under the Social Housing Agreement is scheduled to continuously decline from its current level of \$15.3 million until its elimination in 2037, which will further impact the GN's budget in order to fund NHC to operate, maintain, and modernize the existing housing stock.

Finally, with the current annual cost to operate and maintain a public housing unit being close to \$23,000, the completion of the 1,011 units under the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan will have resulted

in over \$23 million of increased annual operating costs. The increased annual operating cost in today's dollars of meeting the current additional housing need of 3,580 units would be \$82.3 million plus an additional \$2 million each year for the 90 units added to keep pace with population growth. Therefore, we must continue to seek out alternatives as well as additional funding to address this critical housing issue.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear your comments and to answer any questions you may have. *Qujannamiik. Ma'nalluavik.* Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) for the record, please introduce your witnesses. (interpretation ends) Hon. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Yes, I will introduce my witnesses. On my right is Lori Kimball, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and on my left from Corporate Services is Chief Financial Officer Heather Moffatt. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation ends) Ms. Kimball and Ms. Moffatt, welcome to the House. (interpretation) As we proceed, does a member of the Regular Members' Caucus have any opening comments? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Members note that the corporation is proposing to spend \$30,230,000 for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The corporation's capital budget was \$28,841,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year and its budget was \$16,004,000 for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the ongoing shortage of housing in Nunavut's communities is an ongoing issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a number of programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. Members note that the corporation is proposing a budget of \$4,616,000 for its various homeownership programs. The corporation's capital budget for homeownership programs has not

changed since its 2011-12 capital estimates. In July of 2012, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced changes to the corporation's Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program. It indicated that "these changes aim to support the development of private real estate markets in Nunavut" and that "the NHC will be able to assist a greater number of Nunavummiut in becoming homeowners, and ensure fair access to assistance." During the minister's recent appearance, members raised concerns regarding the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs are benefiting long-term residents. Members were advised that the corporation is currently reviewing all of its homeownership programs and look forward to receiving an update on this issue. Members also encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the adequacy of its funding for homeownership programs.

In March of 2010, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program. The corporation's proposed 2014-15 budget for this program is \$500,000. Information provided to members indicates that "this is a five-year initiative with a goal of replacing one hundred heating oil tanks per year for a total of 500 oil tanks across Nunavut. This program is subject to review and/or renewal after five years and is expected to be renewed due to high demand." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this important program.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2014-15 include \$5 million in funding for new staff housing units.

Information provided to members indicates that "the location of any added units will be based on greatest identified needs in 2013-2014." During the minister's recent appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus, members posed questions concerning the community allocation of these new staff housing units. However, the minister was not able to provide this information and indicated that it would be provided to members before the next sitting. As of today, members have not received this information and encourage the minister to table this information in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. Members support the construction of new units in communities where there are shortages of housing for frontline education and health staff. The Regular Members' Caucus also notes the importance of the Nunavut Housing Corporation working closely with departments to ensure that budgets adequately account for the incremental operating costs that accompany new units.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2014-15 include \$10 million in funding for the construction of new public housing units. During the minister's recent appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus, members posed questions concerning the community allocation of these new public housing units. However, the minister was not able to provide this information and indicated that it would be provided to members before the next sitting. As of today, members have not received this information and strongly encourage the minister to provide this information in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

On May 15, 2013, a Minister's Statement was delivered in the Legislative Assembly concerning the federal government's announcement that it would provide Nunavut with \$100 million in funding for new public housing. The minister indicated that "the preliminary community allocation list for a proposed initial 210 units is subject to change."

On September 12, 2013, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut issued a joint news release announcing the first year's funding of \$30 million to support new affordable housing in Nunavut. It indicated that "the funding will be delivered by the Government of Nunavut through a Supplementary Agreement to the Investment in Affordable Housing 2012-2014 Agreement signed by Governments of Canada and Nunavut in 2011." Members look forward to receiving updates on this significant issue.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2014-15 includes \$6,342,000 in funding for its Modernization and Improvement Retrofit program. The corporation's capital budget for modernization and improvement retrofit funding has not changed since its 2010-11 capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Very well done. (interpretation) Prior to moving on to our

review and just before I identify members on my list, there are two rules I have to remind of for the last time today so I won't have to continually remind everyone on a daily basis.

According to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken, which is subject to the discretion of the Chair.

Moving on. Are there any general comments on the minister's opening comments? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask: within the homeownership programs, the Nunavut Housing Corporation offers opportunities for homeowners to access grants and you mentioned one in your opening comments, the seniors and disabled persons' preventative program. It says that the maximum amount you can access is \$1,500 and they require three years worth of tax returns. At the same time, if you want to access the down-payment assistance program that you have for a lot larger amount, the same criteria still applies. I'm just wondering again why you make it so difficult to access the \$1,500, why would you want three years worth, and if you were thinking about changing that or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. I don't

want to provide incorrect information, so I would like to have Lori respond to the question if you will allow, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently looking at the \$1,500 threshold. That hasn't been reviewed in a number of years, so we want to make sure that we're providing the appropriate amount of money for annual maintenance for seniors in Nunavut.

In regard to the three years worth of tax returns, one of the options available to our clients is to actually fill out a form that authorizes us to actually pull the information directly from the CRA. So with the one form signed, we can actually pull that on their behalf, minimizing the administrative burden on our clients.

At the same time, I do recognize the point the member makes and we are having a look to see if we really need three years worth of history in order to access that program. That is one of the elements that are under review right now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. I think that's good news. I have some more questions, but I'm going to wait until we get further into the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is to do with the homeownership program. In the homeownership program, there are programs within the program. Can the minister give a breakdown of how much goes to the down-payment assistance program out of the total homeownership program? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I'll get Ms. Kimball to respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the beginning of the year, we don't allocate between the different programs, we wait to see what kinds of applications and what volumes are coming in. I can tell you that in 2012-2013, we spent \$1.4 million on the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program. So far this year as of January, we have spent \$614,000 on the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. (interpretation) Are there any questions to the minister's opening remarks? Mr. Mikkungwak. Just to let the members know that I asked the members to make remarks on the minister's opening comments. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask a question to the Minister of the

Nunavut Housing Corporation. In the middle paragraph: (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for modernization and improvements (M&I), public housing renovations, homeownership programs, and the Mobile Equipment Fund, the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program, and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program remains at approximately the same level as last year. Is that across the territory of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Yes, that is for all of Nunavut.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a follow-up to that, is there a variance by community regarding this aspect? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question, in the prior years, it's approximately the same as the prior years. That's geared toward the question that you just posed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Mr. Mikkungwak, any more? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to this, how does the aging public housing units or M&I programs affect this? Does it affect this, yes or no, or does the funding stay the same in the past years to now? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The funding has been the same. In order for the member to get an adequate response, I'd like to defer this question to Ms. Kimball.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two main aspects to maintenance funding. The M&I funding, or modernization and improvement funding, that has stayed, pretty much stable. We also get regular maintenance funding and demand. The demand maintenance funding and the preventative maintenance funding as part of our main estimates, those are actually scaled up by communities, based on the new construction that exists in each of the communities. As we add units, the local housing organizations is provided with more maintenance funding.

In terms of the M&I, this is really for older stock, so that's why the allocations by communities really stayed the same for the past several years to address the older stock. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now flipping to the second page of the minister's opening remarks, again referring to the middle paragraph of his presentation, "Construction through the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan has improved our ability to fulfill our mandate, but there is still a significant need for additional housing units. The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey showed that 3,580 more units are immediately required. Furthermore, we estimate that an additional 90 units will be required each year to keep pace with population growth based on current Nunavut Bureau of Statistics projections and the proportion of the population currently dependent on public housing."

With that, my question is: does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have another action plan to meet the needs regarding that survey? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reading my opening comments, we receive a large portion of the funds from the federal government. It's evident that the funding will approximately cover half the units that are required. It's evident that the funding is not going to be sufficient enough to fulfill the housing requirements. So we will need to continue to lobby the federal government for more funding. That's how we can move forward. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. My additional question in reference to that is: has the Nunavut Housing Corporation explored affordable private homeownership to meet the needs of that survey to make the numbers smaller? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank the member for the question. Yes, we will continue to look to alleviate the housing shortage. We'll continue to look at ways on how to alleviate the housing shortage and we will continue to look at ways of how we can alleviate the lack of housing and continue to look for affordable housing. Perhaps I'll ask Lori to make a supplementary to the response with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the recent implementation of our rent scale, we're able to have insight now into the incomes of our public housing tenants. It confirmed that we have very few public housing tenants who have incomes that would make them viable as homeowners. It's an extremely small percentage of our tenants.

Affordable homeownership for public housing tenants is probably not a close thing without further economic development for the territory. However,

we are definitely looking at options on our staff housing side of things, where there is more opportunity to take advantage of some affordable housing. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. In looking at the document also at the very last paragraph on the second page of the minister's opening comments, "Based on an average cost of \$400,000 per unit and the 2013-14 total Government of Nunavut capital estimates of just over \$153 million, it would take 12 years at today's prices for the Government of Nunavut to eliminate the current housing shortfall and meet the need being created by population growth if 100 percent of capital spending were directed toward construction of new public housing units and these units continued to be supplied as GN owned public housing in the same manner as in the past."

My question to that paragraph is: with that statement, is that only looking at that particular type of housing units? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) In the interest of time, may I suggest that for those of you who have comments to the opening remarks by the minister, the document has been read; we don't need to re-read the whole thing again. Please try and get to your questions without reading the whole document again, if I may. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these matters you are asking about, if that is, indeed, the case, then if I understood your question, you were asking about the construction costs. If that was the question about costs for the same design under construction, did you ask if the department has that type of perspective? Yes, you are correct. (interpretation ends) Those are based on those current public housing models.

(interpretation) I hope my response was understandable.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question regarding the opening comments is: has the Nunavut Housing Corporation taken into consideration on their surveys regarding private homeownership and how that may impact the housing shortfall across the territory? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that good question. I'll have Lori respond to the question with our Chair's permission.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll do this from memory, but I believe that the 2009-2010 survey showed that there were about 1,800 private homeowners in the territory

against the total number of dwellings of 9,400 in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. To the minister's opening comments, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Fire Damage and Replacement Fund, it states that there are funds for this purpose. There are quite a number of units with fire damages where nothing has even been done even though the lot could possibly be utilized. We all know that in Rankin Inlet that it has a (interpretation ends) utilidor system. (interpretation) and it is very expensive to attempt a new (interpretation ends) utilidor system hook-up.

(interpretation) Wouldn't it be more efficient to tear down these units and reuse the lot that they are situated in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking the question. Units damaged by fire (interpretation ends) smoke damaged (interpretation) and if the damage was quite huge, yes, they would have to build a replacement unit but if the unit can be retrofitted, if they could do modernization and improvement on that unit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just says fire damage report and we all know that when you are under a utilidor system, there can be water damage, as well, to the building, social housing, or anybody's house. If the piping breaks down, then there can be water damage in the house. Are those thought about at all? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you. All those are considered. If they are fighting a fire with water, it can have water damage through the firefighting process and they would need to be repaired, so we look at all those different maintenance needs and they are done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Questions on the minister's opening statement, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to touch a little bit on what my colleague from Rankin Inlet has just mentioned with regarding the fire damage. This fund has decreased by \$611,000 from last year's capital budget, yet, which is still almost three times the annual budget being allocated to this line item in previous years. Can the minister explain what type of fire prevention measures that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is taking to help alleviate some of the stresses on this budget's line items? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for asking that good question. I would like to get Lori to respond to that on damages resulting through different means, through fire, or through bad planning, or other things. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the increase that we are seeing in fire damage costs and fire damage budget is the increase we are seeing in general in cost of construction and cost of repairs throughout Nunavut. We definitely take fire prevention seriously but in terms of the volume of fires relative to the volume of units, we've added almost 25 percent to our stock with the NHT and with the SIP construction, so it makes sense that we would see an increase in fires proportionally based on the larger stock.

We are taking steps to reduce fire. We recently were doing a tenant engagement campaign. That consists of an annual calendar that we've distributed to all of our LHOs, which does try to get tenant involvement in terms of the care and maintenance of the units: things like fire prevention are addressed; things like consideration of your neighbours for noise. Those types of things are all addressed through that calendar.

We have further tenant engagement activities planned coming for the next year as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you for that answer. Also in that budget line, it's \$1.789 million for insurance deductibles and replacement units. Could I be provided a breakdown of how much of that is for the insurance deductibles? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the insurance matters, Ms. Kimball can explain that better. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) You have my permission. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually don't have that handy. We do pay a deductible of \$50,000 for each multiplex when there is an incident. The balance is actually through GN insurance. To access the GN self-insurance, we actually claim that as well. So the \$1.789 million is actually all the claim from the GN. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the minister for covering so many of the topics that I was looking at covering in his opening comments. It saved me a lot of time in the next round of questioning.

The CMHC funding under the social housing agreement is set to decline. The

current limit of the \$15.3 million, in my opinion, isn't even sufficient for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's needs. Can you let me and the members know how fast that this fund is being depleted until the year 2037? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickee. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Hickee for his question. I'd like you to get the proper reply so I'll get my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Please respond to him correctly, Ms. Kimball.

>>Laughter

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount of funding decline actually varies quite a bit per year. I can tell you that in 2014-15, it's going to go down by \$648,000. In 2015-16, it will go down by \$220,000. In 2016-17, it goes down by \$692,000. In 2017-18, it goes down by over \$1 million. In 2018-19, it goes down by over \$1.6 million. It does vary quite a bit for the next years. It's a little bit less of a decline than it has been in the past few years, but it will ramp up again. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickee.

Mr. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we all appreciate the investment in new housing units for our territory, in your opening comments, you alluded to

the expense that is borne by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to maintain those units. I know I'm kind of treading a little bit of thin line here, Mr. Chairman, because that's more of an O&M topic but it was brought up into the opening comments so I'm going to touch on it.

With your discussions with the federal government, as well as through the Department of Finance with the Government of Nunavut, what is the strategy going forward, if we keep getting the investments that we hope to get from the federal government to build new units? How are we supposed to maintain them at current maintenance cost levels? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickee. Hon. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my namesake George. My officials can explain the budget a lot better than I can and also predict better than I can so I'll get them to explain it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an issue that's facing all of the provinces and territories throughout Canada and we're actively engaged with the Provincial and Territorial Working Group to complete a business case that's been under production for a couple of years now. We're trying to get into the final stages and get that issued and there is a section in that document that specifically speaks to the unique circumstance of Nunavut. So, hopefully, that document will have an effect.

As well, as part of our GN comprehensive long-term strategy and framework documents, we've identified that we need to take more steps in terms of building our business case internally and getting better statistics and metric so we can have a stronger case going forward to the federal government, as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that answer, Ms. Kimball and I can't stress enough to yourself and Mr. Kuksuk on educating your peers at these FPT meetings. I've attended them in the past and I know that every jurisdiction in Canada is dealing with these issues but I don't think that any of them are dealing with them on the scale that we are. I know that it's a difficult message to get across to people who don't understand the way we live in Nunavut and I just wish you the best of luck. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Taima*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) I take that as a comment. (interpretation) Thank you. I will proceed. Does anyone have any questions on the opening remarks? I will recognize Mr. Mikkungwak again.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had planned to ask him a question earlier but I realized that I had skipped it. On page 2 of 3, regarding the item listed in the bottom paragraph (interpretation ends) based on an average cost of \$400,000 per unit, on that \$400,000 unit, is that a detached unit or an apartment building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) which is it?

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): It would be a multiplex.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for responding properly. I would like to ask, so what would the figure be for a standalone unit? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): It could be the same or it could even be cheaper but I don't think it would be much cheaper. The \$400,000 is average per unit.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. On page L-3 and L-4 and L-5 combined, it states Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions. The first one I will ask is based on our committee member's comments. When we were in the Regular Members' Caucus, we questioned the minister on the \$5 million for staff housing and we were questioning where this money will be spent. The minister stated at that time that he would provide members, before

the next sitting, with more details on this \$5 million funding for staff housing. Can the minister update us today on where this money will be spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Update, please, hon. minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague. Yes, we should be updating them as per the subject raised in his question if we can complete it in time. The information is actually held by Lori. Thank you.

Chairman: I believe you're asking permission to have me recognize Ms. Kimball and, if that's the case, I do recognize Ms. Kimball. Go ahead.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the \$5 million for staff housing, we're proposing four duplexes, one in Resolute Bay, one in Whale Cove, one in Chesterfield Inlet, and one in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Kimball for that update. It makes it much easier for us in approving budgets when we know where the money is going to be spent.

On a different note, in your opening comments, you talked about \$1 million for fire damage repair. Is the \$1 million sufficient to repair all the fire damaged units that are across Nunavut today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. This is specific to units suffering fire damage, although it is unfortunate to have to deal with fires and fire damages to our units, there is no way around it. Houses are built from combustible material so it occurs from time to time, however, with respect to your question, we will always be suffering from shortages and that is obvious. At this time, that is the only way to respond to your question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much, minister. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate how much money would be required in order to repair all the fire damaged units throughout Nunavut, if they have that figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And that was a relevant question, however I must apologize as I understand your point but unfortunately I don't have the figure memorized or in my head with respect to his question of how much funds are required to retrofit all fire damaged units. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that my deputy to supplement my response with details on the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. In addition to the minister's response, Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time we put this binder together, we were showing about \$4.6 million more than what we had in funding. Now, that's before the \$2.7 million that would get approved today or at this sitting. With that, it will leave a small balance remaining. Again, we would be submitting our capital budgets for 2015-16. Our initial submission internally is due, I think, in early April. At that point, we would go for the balance of the funding. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we know how many actual units across Nunavut are presently sitting vacant because of fire damage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Personally, I don't have that figure with me so I apologize. I would like that question answered if we had those figures available and that specific amount he asked for. I would like to ask that Lori respond to the question raised by the member regarding the actual numbers. Do we have those figures? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: I'm just having a look at my notes here. It looks like there were

about 15 fires in 2013-14. Of those fires that occurred in 2013-14, only two were significant enough that the units would have been taken offline. There might be some older ones that are waiting for this funding and I don't have that information with me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different subject, your Heating Oil Replacement Program has been in place now for several years and quite a few people have taken advantage of it. Also, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has replaced pretty well all the tanks in their public housing stock. I'll use my community as an example. You probably have 180 to 200 units in our community, and now we have an abundance of used fuel tanks in our communities. Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have any plans to dispose of these used fuel tanks properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: That's a very good question, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation) I looked through my briefing notes but I didn't see anything on the used oil tanks. (interpretation ends) I will ask Lori if we have a plan, if you will allow me to have Lori answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister Kuksuk. (interpretation ends) I will allow Ms. Kimball to answer. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As with all of our maintenance activities, we try to make sure that we're complying with any environmental regulations related to those. I don't have the specifics with me, but I do know that we do ensure that we are in consultation with the Department of Environment, and make sure that if there are any environmental issues, that we are addressing those. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last note on the fuel tanks, the biggest environmental issue we're going to have is all these fuel tanks are going to end up in our landfills. These fuel tanks take up quite a bit of space. Our waste disposal sites are already at capacity, in a lot of cases. I'm scared that that's where they're going to end up. I would like the department to get back to us with any plan of disposal that they may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with you. I can't find them in my briefing notes but the Housing Corporation will definitely have to look into the used fuel tanks. Our landfills are just about at capacity. We will look into the used fuel tanks and keep you updated. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Let me remind you that we are on L-3. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Down Payment Assistance program that you guys have, has all the dollars been expended in that program, to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like to defer this question to Ms. Kimball, with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned before, we don't actually allocate. We have the \$4,616,000 in total funding for homeownership programs each year and we don't set targets for the different programs. We actually look at all the different applications that come in. In 2012-13, we did spend \$1.4 million on the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. So far this year, we have only spent \$600,000, but our year-end has not closed yet, and our tracking shows that through approval, we have committed over \$950,000 for the NDAP program for this year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within that program, there were some changes announced in July of 2012 to support the development of a private real estate market in Nunavut. Have the changes to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program increased the number of applications and approved

applications, and how many new houses have been built using this program?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes.
Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member with my namesake. I would ask that this question be responded to by Lori, at your discretion. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2013-14, we have actually received 64 applications, 46 of which were approved and 16 have been declined. In 2012-13, we actually saw, for down-payment assistance, we had 58 applications and 22 approvals, 18 declined, and 25 were waitlisted. The application volume seems to be fairly consistent. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball.
Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a concern I have raised to the minister previously. I'm unfamiliar with all the housing markets across Nunavut, but I am familiar with the housing market here in Iqaluit. With the income threshold to be accepted into this program being capped at \$125,000 per household, granted there are some additional amounts for dependants, having a house or purchasing a house and maintaining a house in Iqaluit with that income is setting people up for drastic failures.

While the intake may be there, I personally have had to deal with people who have been under this program in the past or some of the grandfathered programs that are going through foreclosure. It pains me, Mr. Minister, to have to try and work with a family who have been trying to do everything right and they just don't have the means to support this. I seriously hope the minister will consider taking another look and I look forward another upcoming announcement from the minister with regard to this program. I would like a comment from the minister on that, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes.
Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his question; I meant his suggestion to me to consider the hardships families suffer through. In looking at that matter, I concur with the member however, we will have to look into it further as a department or as the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I agree with you George that the improvements should be looked at to provide better services. Perhaps further down the road in our future, we may be able to provide an answer to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to switch gears a little bit here, under the Affordable Housing Framework announced in July of 2011, \$1.4 billion was allocated across the country for 2011 through 2014. With the \$30 million that was announced this past fall by this government being provided

\$30 million, it was stated that it was through a supplementary agreement to this affordable housing agreement. Can the minister answer whether this was a part of that original \$1.4 billion nationally or was this a new agreement outside of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank George, who shares my name. It is in two parts. The houses were built with the money and there were two agreements and the other one was slightly amended. The \$100 million will be used for the construction of houses but I think you are asking a question on the national \$1. I don't know how many billion that was and I do apologize, George, and I don't know whether it is part of that money or if it is a new agreement. Maybe I should refer this question to Lori. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for CMHC, we have a three year agreement under the Investment and Affordable Housing Initiative with CMHC and that was providing separate funding which was \$1,455,000 toward new construction every year, as a match-match. The Government of Nunavut had to put in a matching amount to access that funding for three years, so what they did was; the first \$30 million of the \$100 million was done as a supplementary to that three year agreement which ended in 2014.

We are now doing a new agreement with CMHC for 2014-19 which will be a five-year extension of the \$1,465,000 and then a supplement of that has been done for the \$70 million to make up the total of the \$100 million. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to begrudge the, I don't want to say, generosity of the federal government because I still think we still have a long way to go, but out of the federal announcement of \$1.4 billion, what you're saying is that we got one percent of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank him for that question. I think he has a calculator head

>> *Laughter*

but I don't have one. Again, I will refer this question to the person besides me. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball, you have the same calculator? Proceed.

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a calculator but our funding is \$1,455,000 per year for five years and I believe out of that. I'm not sure if the \$1.4 billion was related to the first three years or the five-year renewal. I can't remember off the top of my head. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball.
Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: If I can help, the Affordable Housing Framework was scheduled under 2011 through 2014 as a \$1.4 billion combined investment toward reducing the number of Canadians in housing needs, so my calculator doesn't have to be too accurate to figure out \$1.4 billion to \$1.4 million. It's a pretty easy calculation. Again, I appreciate the supplementary agreement is being done but I still have to question on how the message is getting across to the minister's counterparts across the country on the real need for housing in Nunavut and having one percent of that money being spent in Nunavut just doesn't seem realistic to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Was there a question in that, Mr. Hickes? Thank you. Hon. Minister, comment? Response?

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, I do agree with you that this amount of money is not adequate for Nunavut. I don't know how I can phrase it properly, George, but we'll just have to keep lobbying the federal government to try and meet the needs of the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister.
Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to be careful on how I worded my comments and statements that I don't offend the powers that be that have been somewhat generous in giving us housing dollars. I think one of the arguments to help you with some of

your counterparts is we don't have trees here, we don't have the manufacturing plants here, we don't manufacture these materials to build houses in Nunavut. Those dollars go to your counterparts' jurisdictions in southern Canada.

I really hope that you have an opportunity to emphasize the spin-off benefits to their jurisdictions by supporting us in our housing situation. That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Moving ahead. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Finally.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some questions. In the very recent past, Nunavut Housing Corporation got into a difficult situation, really, when it came to building public housing units under the Nunavut Housing Trust fund.

The \$100 million is going to be received by this government, you know, we have the agreement in place. I am just wondering what kind of assurances or steps can you provide us today that the same cost overruns will not happen again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.
Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): That is a very good question. I thank the member for her question. In past the CMHC, even though I was not the minister at that time, I don't want to see a lack of housing again. We have put

plans in place for that. We recognize that where we have made any mistakes and what we should do to correct that. I'll get Ms. Kimball to respond to it, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. In fact, you want me to tell Ms. Kimball to answer the question. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we did after the Nunavut Housing Trust and the other ones with Canada's Economic Action Plan, the over-commitment of units, we identified a document called the NHT Lessons Learned. It really recapped a lot of the initiatives that were incorporated in those two construction activities that added to the cost. Some of the ways we approached the construction activities that added to cost.

Our approach this time is much more simplified. We are going with supply, ship, and erect tendering methods so that we know the whole costs of the contract up front. We are not splitting our materials and our labour tenders. We're also doing staggered tendering so we're able to see what the bids are coming in like, and project the remaining bids, knowing the differences in cost. We know that shipping varies by community.

Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, for instance, the structural insulated panel units ranged from \$30,000 for the material to be delivered to a community to \$90,000, depending on the community it was shipped. Looking at the known cost differences by community, we're able to take tenders that we're receiving and extrapolate and project what we expect the tenders to be in other

communities. With the ship-supply-erect tendering, it also dramatically reduces change orders because the full construction package is put onto the contractor up front, so they are accountable for the whole piece.

Through those different methods, we have some risk mitigation strategies. We also have improved budgeting techniques, improved financial tracking, and appropriate staffing levels. One of the first things we did when we received the news of the \$100 million is we did come forward and made requests to make sure that we had appropriate bodies in place to have oversight over this whole process. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for your answer. Your answer kind of leads me into my next question, actually, because I understand that the tenders to build public housing units under the \$100 million have gone out. I'm not sure if they're back or not, but if they are, did they come back within budget or are you expecting them to come back within budget? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the \$100 million fund allocated towards public housing units, it is allocated regionally and some funds have already been provided and further some tenders are still open but they will close at the end of this month.

Additionally, there will be further tenders opened in April, so at this time the NHC new units will be constructed at this summer and the construction will continue to next year. Those funds were already allocated based on the plans made to that purpose. If I perchance answered your question, I believe the member asked if the (interpretation ends) budget (interpretation) contains that funding figures. Are we on budget or are we over? That is something I would ask Lori to respond to as I don't want to err with my response. I ask that she be allowed to answer (interpretation ends) that part.

(interpretation) Thank you, again it is at the chairperson's discretion.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister.
Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get the English translation, so I may be repeating a little bit.

We did tender 128 units. This past fall, we awarded 123 of the 128. The only one we didn't award is one five-plex in Whale Cove. With changes to our design, we found that the price was reflecting some over-design issues that we had with the architect. We have actually gone back to redesign the five-plex with the intent of bringing down the cost and making sure that we're not over-designing or over-spec'ing some of the mechanical systems and different system needs.

We have 80 units out for tender right now, which consists entirely of ten-plexes, and that's closing on March 20,

and then we are going to be re-tendering those two five-plexes in April and closing those off as well.

The 123 units did come in within budget. Actually, here in Iqaluit, it came in under budget and they had a second proposal option to go from 30 units to 33 units, and we were able to go with the 33 units within budget. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball.
Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering too, just based upon your answer: what kind of feedback are you getting from contractors about the way that you're doing your tenders now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends)
Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question as it is an extremely good question. We use various contractors, at least those contractors who submit bids on NHC tenders for the public housing. It is usually larger companies, obviously, that submit bids. In a small company in the community, there is a lot more money that a bigger company has to get equipment, and so on. We have not really heard from anyone with respect to supply and erect using the SSE. You asked about feedback from my department. We have not really heard anything negative. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My next question is: to what extent are the local housing organizations involved in regard to the new public housing units that you're building under this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Ms. Kimball to respond to Ms. Angnakak's question on whether we involve the local housing organizations with respect to construction, and so on. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to get Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the beginning when we first heard about the \$100 million, we did arrange to have conversations with our district offices, who were in consultation with the LHOs in terms of the bedroom size and the need list that we had from each community and what type of structures we wanted to build.

At the same time, we have to weigh that against the architectural design costs to different designs in different communities, which create other challenges. In one design, we actually got a price of over \$800,000, plus a commission on every build is what they were looking for. So making changes to design can quickly eat up the money that we want to build houses.

So in consultation with the LHOs, we determined that we were going with the ten-plex as the main design, which allows for eight two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units. We know that there is a backlog of one-bedroom unit demand, so this allows us to slowly address that.

As we go forward with the builds, it's actually our district offices that are staffed up to oversee the contractors and monitor the construction activity. We do, of course, involve our LHOs to make sure that their eye is on the ground as to what's going on, as well as we will be flying our community development officers, who actually do the formal inspections and sign off for various stages of the progress payments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for your answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering from your answer if you had had any real opposition to the type of design that you are going to put into a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just a short response. We haven't had any major opposition at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Okay, I'm going to switch gears. Nunavut has a high

population of young people, but also a growing elder population. What is the Nunavut Housing Corporation doing at this present time to address the growing need to have adequate and relevant housing for elders, seeing that we heard yesterday that, within the government it takes about five years from the time it is identified as a priority to the actual time we see a building built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question, as well, from the member. The elders in Nunavut have to have adequate housing and they have to be cared for adequately because they are our elders. They looked after us and now we have to look after them, so for that reason, we have a vision of what we want to do for them and there are various kinds that we talked about. I will get Lori to respond to that question so she can answer it properly. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NHC's construction timeline typically is in the same five year cycle but we are 100 percent dependant on whether or not funding arrives from the federal government. If we look at just having the notice last year, we do plan to have all the materials in the communities this summer and complete the units by spring, sorry, summer of 2015.

With that being said, we have recently gone live with our new rent scale management software, so we can now pose some really interesting statistics in

terms of people aged 50 to 59, so we can actually plan in advance now, so we have some great statistics that show us, some communities are actually...their elder population is going to increase by 172 percent in some cases.

So this is actually factoring into our planning and it actually has led in the 2015-16 lot acquisitions that we have proposed through the funding of the \$10 million. We've actually identified that we need a senior's four-plex in Sanikiluaq, based on the senior's demand from this new data, so we will be using this data as we plan the different structures in the different communities, going forward. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In saying that, what plans do you have for Iqaluit in regards to long-term elder care housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for her question. In regards to the question and providing elders' homes, in Iqaluit, the City of Iqaluit is responsible for the lots but only if they grant the lot for the building (interpretation ends) that would depend on the city, whether we get approved for land (interpretation) for the sites (interpretation ends) It depends on the city in regards to the land. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if you have approached the city to talk about this issue, to see what they think about it. Do they know that it's up to them to come to you to request such a thing or have you sat down and spoken with them and said that this is the process we need from you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): That's a very good question, Mr. Chairman. My deputy has been discussing this matter with the City of Iqaluit. I will ask Lori to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Definitely, we're not waiting for the city to offer us land. We have been approaching the city. We do have some lots that we have, but zoning can be a factor in terms of what type of building they will allow. We are trying to work with the city to address some of those challenges. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: You spark my interest now. So I understand that you have gone to the city, you have said, "We could build an elder facility. You need to identify land." And somehow there's a

bit of a resistance there about zoning and stuff. I just want to be clear on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is the same line of questioning, so I would like Lori to respond to it as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have some lots that we already own where there are some older, boarded-up units, and we had approached the city with some plans for those lots. However, that area is zoned in such a way that it would not allow the multiplex structure that we were looking at putting in. If we're going to build for seniors, we would like to build a multiplex to accommodate as many as we can. Obviously, the denser a structure we have the better cost per unit. We are working with the city on those issues. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: In regard to the same topic, can you give me an idea of a timeline of when you would probably come to a decision that "We're going to build an elders' facility in Iqaluit and this is what it's going to look like." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. If we can continue (interpretation ends) with Lori. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, we have put in our tentative plan for ten units in Iqaluit for this summer. If we're not able to rectify the situation, we're looking at an alternative plan of going with two seniors' four-plexes instead. Of course, we get fewer units when we reduce the size of a structure. I can't speak in terms of the timeline of when we're going to hear back from the city. Thanks.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question kind of touches on what we were just talking about. I know that last summer, Iqaluit lost an opportunity to get public housing units due to lack of capacity, I think, with the water issue, and stuff like that. I'm just wondering what steps you're taking to work with municipalities, hamlets, and that to ensure that these kinds of opportunities aren't lost again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question about potential barriers. It isn't just in Iqaluit where that occurred but in many of our hamlets in Nunavut. Whenever we are looking at allocations of housing, we work with the hamlet

councils on the planning and preparation towards the new units on issues such as water and other needs the member mentioned in her question as we have to review them all in the communities to ensure capacity isn't overrun with new units to be constructed.

There are various factors that we have to consider in our planning process and they all have to be included. That is also the case whenever we are considering units for the City of Iqaluit, where we work with the administration of the City, especially the land administration divisions.

You asked what kind of preparations or plans we have prepared; I do know that plans are in place for this eventuality. I would ask that Lori be allowed to respond as she has the details and she can speak to the plans in place for Iqaluit between our department and the city. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the key things NHC has done in the past couple of years is development of our new framework and strategy documents for the GN Comprehensive Long-term Housing Strategy. Through that, it has been identified that we really need to collaborate in terms of preparing to ensure that lots are available, land is available. Not just that; if the corresponding infrastructure is available, you need the roads to the housing units; you need hydro poles to make sure you can power them; you need to make sure that the fuel tank farm can handle the additional capacity. Through those documents we have identified the need

for further engagement with our counterparts.

We're definitely more pro-active in terms of working with the Department of CGS and working with the hamlets. You'll notice that our planned construction for utilizing the \$10 million that's in front of you for public housing to actually to include the component of lot acquisitions for 2015-16. So we're working a year ahead on our lot acquisition.

We're also currently working on a five-year plan taking us to 2019 for the full scope of the CMHC funding and the investment of affordable housing funding, as well as the planned five-year commitment in the GN side of the Five-Year Capital Plan as well.

So we're doing more long-term planning so that we can work in advance with the hamlets and with CGS. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak, is that it? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on the homeownership program. As my colleague, Mr. Hickes, read it too, I'll just read part of it. The Nunavut Down Payment Assistance program indicates that these changes aim to support the development of private real estate markets. I thought that the program of home assistance was to help people get into houses, not to make a housing market.

I know that this will be borderline operation, but I believe that the criteria to get down payment assistance, as Mr.

Hickes indicated too, are not good. It is too low. There should be a minimum and a maximum, but the maximum definitely is not \$125,000 per household. Maybe that should be the minimum, but not the maximum.

There should also be, I believe, a sliding scale. And that sliding scale would be; if you live in Nunavut all your life, you should get priority and maybe more money than someone that just got off the airplane because the two-year residency was also removed. A person can get off the airplane and apply for down payment assistance and they would qualify if they fit the parameters because there are no more residency requirements.

I would like to know if the criteria for homeownership program can be looked into. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. To keep some honour in this House, may I remind colleagues to try and refrain from using our colleagues' first names and use last names, please. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues' comments are self-explanatory. There was a concern about this. He is talking about the down-payment assistance program. Ms. Kimball has the details. I want her to provide the detailed information on the down-payment assistance program.

Also in regard to the comments made on the residency requirements in Nunavut, I want that question to be answered in detail. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Ms. Kimball to respond to the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. I have to admit that I wasn't paying attention. Are you asking me to recognize Ms. Kimball? Go ahead.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just speaking to your first point about minimum and maximum, right now, we do have a verification of income where we set the maximum amount of income that someone can earn and be allowed to access the program at \$125,000. We agree that that doesn't really make sense, especially in a market like Iqaluit, where a house is usually about half a million dollars, and if you're making \$125,000, I would argue that you're probably not ready to be able to take on that financial burden.

We do implement an affordability analysis and we do review whether or not we're setting a client up. We want to make sure that that client is going to be able to afford the housing. It is part of our process. We are relooking at the income thresholds to make sure that they are more appropriate.

In terms of the two-year residency removal, I know that this is a very sticky topic, a lot of concerns with that one. What we were looking at is we know that the people in our public housing units are not having income sufficient to transition to homeownership. So when we looked at the territory, we looked at who has income that could transition into homeownership. We're really often looking at our own staff or also staff of the federal government or staff of other entities where people are employed in town.

When we look at the GN program, we're spending \$18,000 per household in staff

housing subsidies right now per year. It was that in mind where we looked at if we removed the residency requirement, it would allow people in staff housing to access up to \$30,000 in down-payment assistance, which would actually take away the burden of \$18,000 per year.

With our Nunavut down-payment assistance plan, if someone accesses that program and they leave the territory or they sell their unit within five years, we get 100 percent of that \$30,000 back. So if we were paying for them to be in staff housing for five years at \$18,000, we would be out a lot more money than zero at the end of five years. That's what led us to make that decision.

I can tell you that right now, we have zero people waitlisted for the NDAP, so it's not like we're turning down any applications for NDAP, where we're processing people from the south and not processing people from the north. So everybody who is applying that is qualified has been able to access the program, and that's our goal going forward to make sure that we're supporting people who can transition into homeownership to get them into homeownership and reduce the subsidies that we're paying through other programs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister if he thinks that the amount that people qualify for is sufficient enough when you're buying, let's say, a \$500,000 house. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq, I'm going to have to ask you to rephrase your question. You're asking an opinion of the minister. Mr. Savikataaq, if you want to, please rephrase your question.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase that question then. Just one last question here has to do with math again. The minister indicated that there were four duplexes being built for staff housing, if I remember correctly, which is eight units. Using the cost estimates for public housing, which is \$400,000, my math says that's \$3.2 million and they have \$5 million budgeted. I'm just wondering if I'm correct in assuming that there's going to be a surplus. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. A person who doesn't need a calculator just asked me a question. I'll have Ms. Kimball respond to Mr. Savikataaq's question. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Hon. Minister, thank you. (interpretation) I will have Ms. Kimball respond.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$400,000 that was quoted was based on our last round of construction. Costs have increased since then. On our ten-plexes for the 123 tenders that have closed, when we factor in land costs, the fully loaded costs were between \$400,000 in some communities to as much as \$450,000 in other communities. That's on a ten-plex.

Again, the more units you have in one building the lower your costs go down. When we start building duplexes, our cost per unit goes up quite a bit. As well, because we have the historic cost for those specific communities, we have already run those costs for those communities, which do vary based on the different shipping costs, etcetera. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: At this time, Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Did you get bored all of a sudden or what? There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress, as usual. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee

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

Speaker (interpretation): Is there a seconder? Member Mr. Savikataaq is the seconder. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for all members that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 13:

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 2

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 13, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

