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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Environment

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(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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(Tununiq)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

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Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 29, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak,
Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr.
George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase,
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. Alex 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): Mr. Shooyook, can you
say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good
afternoon. Welcome, Nunavummiut,
Members of the Legislative Assembly,
and Ministers.

Before we start this session,
(interpretation ends) on behalf of all the
Members of the Legislative Assembly, I
would like to extend our best wishes for
a full and speedy recovery to one of our
long-serving interpreter/translators.

(interpretation) Blandina Tulugarjuk had
a snowmobile accident last week and she
is now recuperating in Ottawa. We look
forward to welcoming Blandina back
soon. We miss her voice and we would
welcome hearing her voice here again in
the Legislative Assembly.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements.
(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of
Education, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 017 – 4(2): DEA
Office Manager Training**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to
the people in my community who are
watching in Igloolik and in Nunavut, as
well as my fellow MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that
district education authorities play an
important role in our education system.
(interpretation ends) The district
education authorities work with the
school principals and their communities
to develop school programs that reflect
local needs and values and incorporate
Inuit culture. It is important to help the
district education authorities and their
staff to gain the knowledge, skills, and
abilities needed to administer their
organizations effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, in March, we held
conferences on financial management
for DEA office managers in all three
regions. Funding for these conferences
was provided through the Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs Program
Development and Training Fund. We
contracted three bookkeeping firms that
have experience with the DEAs to
deliver training on following correct
financial processes and developing,
organizing, and maintaining proper
financial records.

My department and the Coalition of
Nunavut District Education Authorities
have worked together to develop a DEA

training manual that supports the training being provided at these conferences. We have worked together with the coalition to develop this manual so that DEA staff and elected members may use it as a comprehensive reference guide.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to providing high-quality training to ensure that the DEAs have the skills needed to meet the financial reporting requirements under the *Education Act* and the *Financial Administration Act*. I am sure this training and the manual we are creating will help the DEAs fulfill their important role in our communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 018 – 4(2):
Excellence in Water Stewardship
Award**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before my colleagues here today to announce that the community of Pond Inlet is Nunavut's recipient of the Excellence in Water Stewardship Award.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

Hon. Peter Taptuna: I look forward to formally presenting the award to the community in the near future.

The Council of the Federation, which is comprised of Canada's 13 Premiers, awards this honour for outstanding achievement, innovative practice, and leadership in water stewardship. It is part of a larger strategy to improve stewardship of our water resources and foster best practices across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, Pond Inlet is working on a project to build more capacity to monitor fresh water quality in a changing climate. Their research involves producing baseline information on the quality of drinking water sources in Pond Inlet, as well as documenting local knowledge, practices, and views related to obtaining drinking water from traditional sources.

This work was led by Tim Anaviapik-Soucie and supported by researchers from the Dalhousie University Centre for Water Resources Studies, the Nunavut Research Institute, and ArcticConnexion.

This project helps the community of Pond Inlet gain an understanding of how changing weather or new activities are impacting their water source. It also helps the community be confident that their water is safe.

Mr. Speaker, water is a fundamental, valuable resource in Nunavut, Canada, and of course, throughout the world. The Excellence in Water Stewardship Award publicly recognizes leaders in the field of water stewardship and rewards remarkable achievement.

Congratulations again to the community of Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 019 – 4(2):
Mental Health First Aid Training
amongst Correction and Probation
Staff**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the beginning of a three-day Mental Health First Aid training program for 32 corrections and probation officers. Delivered in Iqaluit, the program will be offered across the territory.

Historically, the department offered suicide intervention training. To better equip correctional staff with tools to identify and treat the immediate risks of varied mental health situations amongst inmates and colleagues, including depression, traumatic stress, as well as suicidal behaviour, correction and probation officers are now trained in Mental Health First Aid.

This year, a northern component has been added to provide staff with a more in-depth look at some unique factors that are present in northern communities and how our communities support those in need of assistance and how we can introduce more cultural stuff into it.

Mr. Speaker, one in three Canadians will experience mental health problems during their lives. Like getting a cold or infection, mental health problems must

be detected and treated early. Mental Health First Aid will give our correction and probation officers the skills needed to provide early help on an individual's road to recovery. 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 Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 055 – 4(2): 2014
Baker Lake Graduates of Nunavut
Sivuniksavut**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Baker Lake and everyone in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very honoured to rise today to recognize the following youth from Baker Lake, Nunavut:

Tracy Nateela
Eric Ikoe
Atuat Tagoona
Shawna Seeteenak
Nicole Hachey

They graduated from their first year at the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program along with Paula Piryuaq, who completed her second year.

It's obviously the ones who toughed it out graduated after eight and a half months. The program obviously has taught them a lot. They went through

challenges, but they learned a lot. They even have their own webpage now, more importantly, who they are, where they come from, and most of all, their potential as individuals.

We know the students sacrificed a lot; leaving their friends and loved ones. They learned life skills for today. They talked about growing individually and growing together with joy, tears, homelessness, and sometimes feeling alone and wanting to go home. Through it all, they succeeded and graduated.

I was informed of the graduation speeches with emotions, crying, happiness, and gratitude to the Nunavut Sivuniksavut faculty. They thanked their teachers and their fellow classmates. I'm aware that the parents of the graduates, as I indicated... .

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

My apologies. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

As I was saying, I know that the parents felt the hardship and loneliness for their children who are at school. As I am aware, one of the graduates is a young

parent who has overcome the hurdles of being away from her child for long periods while the parents take care of her child. She did that in order to ensure a better life and future.

I can honestly say that parents of these graduates are grateful for a program like Nunavut Sivuniksavut, which I know helps students in their endeavours and their lives. I also know they went to Panama this year, which they really enjoyed. So they are also learning abroad.

It would be nice to see more students applying to a very good program. The program is run very well. I would like to acknowledge our Hon. Member of Parliament, Minister Leona Aglukkaq, who came by and spoke to the graduates. Thank you very much.

Lastly, I wish the best of luck to Tracy Nateela, Eric Ikoe, and Nicole Hachey, who have applied for the second year portion of the program. I do sincerely wish they get accepted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 056 – 4(2): The Need for a Children's Group Home in Nunavut

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my condolences to those in Rankin Inlet who have lost loved ones.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the growing concern that our government no longer supports children's group homes in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the children's group home in Rankin Inlet provided support and service to children with varying levels of need until September 2012. Some of those children were in the group home because their parents were found to be unable to provide the necessary level of care for them. It concerns me that once the department made its decision to close the group home, those same parents were suddenly considered able to provide the level of care their children needed.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that some of the children placed in group homes have multiple problems, both physical and developmental. I understand that when the group homes closed, those clients were sent south to receive care because a regular private home setting would not be able to accommodate all of their needs. However, Mr. Speaker, this just underlines the fact that we should have children's group homes in Nunavut.

Just as in every population, some of our children end up needing a greater level of care than what can be provided in the family home or even in a foster home. Just because their needs are different is not a good excuse to send them away.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the government to reconsider its decision to no longer support children's group homes in Nunavut and give full consideration to reopening, maintaining, and operating a children's group home so that our children can stay in Nunavut and receive

care at home, close to their families and communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 057 – 4(2):
Tribute to Knowlton Nash**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, they held a funeral for the late Knowlton Nash in Ontario. I would like to pay tribute to him. Although I have never met the man, I could say that he has been in my home through my children.

When my two oldest children were preschoolers, one Saturday morning, they recorded themselves on a cassette tape. They were mimicking Knowlton Nash and Barbara Frum. Because they were preschoolers, they had a lot of fun recording themselves mimicking Knowlton Nash and Barbara Frum.

My son said, "The news today is I'm going to have rice crispy cereal. We're going to play outside." I'm so sorry that we lost that cassette tape after moving a few times. His sister announced that she was Barbara Frum and they were going to watch Sesame Street and the Muppet Show.

When I watched The National last night, I remembered him very fondly. When my son finished being Knowlton Nash, he said, "Goodnight," when it was just the beginning of the day.

Those are my fond memories of Knowlton Nash. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 058 – 4(2):
Alcohol Education Committee of
Igloodik**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been committees in Nunavut, especially alcohol education committees. In Igloodik, the alcohol education committee has provided a lot of assistance. For example, there was a fishing derby and they provided financial resources.

For people who are physically unable to go out fishing and hunting, that group was able to assist all of the people like that, such as all the favourite fishing holes. This is directed more to them. The alcohol committee was able to provide tremendous assistance. They also provide other assistance, for example, providing meals on Canada Day or people's birthdays, and they are able to provide free meals.

I would like to recognize alcohol committee in Igloodik for their tremendous volunteer help. Let us provide assistance in any way possible to organize such entities that provide services and assistance to people with physical infirmities. The financial resources are able to stay within the community and utilized within the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 059 – 4(2):
Iqaluit's Gwen Healey**

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I was hoping that the Members' Statement I was going to be speaking about, the lady I am speaking about would be here, but she isn't. Anyhow, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an Iqalummiuq who does tremendous work in the area of health research in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Gwen Healey was born in Iqaluit and is a graduate of the Inuksuk High School. She is currently working toward her PhD in public health, which has focused on collecting perspectives from parents and adolescent children on health and relationships in Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, Gwen Healey founded the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre as an independent non-profit community research centre with Gwen as the lead researcher and four full-time research staff at the centre. Their goal is to enable health research to be conducted locally by Nunavummiut in a supportive, safe, and culturally sensitive and ethical environment.

Since Qaujigiartiit was formed in 2006, the centre has delivered workshops across Nunavut on health research methods, research skills, health promotion planning and evaluation, proposal writing, and ethical conduct in research. Over the past eight years, the

centre has brought over \$6 million into Nunavut for community-led projects and training.

Mr. Speaker, Qaujigiartiit promotes the inclusion of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and western science. The centre has developed community research projects examining parenting, food security, child and youth mental health and wellness, family health, primary care, and public health.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Ms. Healey's accomplishments and I am confident that we will be hearing more of her success in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 060 – 4(2): 2014
Graduates of Nunavut
Sivuniksavut**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to congratulate Nunavut Sivuniksavut that graduated a number of students in the past week. I wish them the best of luck.

Having completed the program, they have become a little bit wiser; they are able to understand more about the history of Nunavut. The students' lives have been affected tremendously in a positive way. I thank all the students who have gone through that program and they should be able to go into universities or colleges and would be able to apply more for jobs.

I would like to recognize Jutai Toonoo Jr. I applaud him for having gone through the program, including all of his fellow graduates. They will be able to look forward to building their future positively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtoq.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 015 – 4(2):
Status of Planning for New School
in Coral Harbour**

Hon. Tom Sammurtoq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This is a return to oral question asked by Mr. Mapsalak, No. 15 – 4(2). The question he asked was:

Can the minister provide an update regarding the current status of planning for a new school in Coral Harbour?

The response is:

Planning for a new school is in the initial stages. A budget to complete the planning during fiscal year 2014-15 has been approved. The current school enrolment and availability of land for a new school is being investigated. The next step to be undertaken in the planning is a consultation in the community, which is planned to occur during the fall of 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 067 – 4(2): Support for Social Workers

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that there is a high turnover of social workers across Nunavut communities. They are stressed out and do not receive enough support. As a result, they leave and someone new comes in until they too face the same challenges. I appreciate that the minister and her officials are making efforts to train and hire more Inuit social workers, but more needs to be done.

I recognize that in the previous Assembly, the *Child and Family Services Act* was amended to better accommodate Inuit societal values. Can the minister clearly explain how the newly amended legislation supports the use of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Aivilik for that question. I think I heard two questions in regard to social workers and also the potential

social workers on the amended legislation. Did I understand the question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak, please rephrase your question

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard to the legislation that has been amended. *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values were going to be incorporated into the legislation. I would like to know what work has been done on the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Aivilik for that question in regard to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values being incorporated into the newly amended legislation. I can tell the member that social workers who are being hired... We're now working on a training program for social workers, as well as traditional knowledge and Inuit societal values. They have incorporated Inuit societal values and now we're starting to work on the training manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. Mr. Speaker, until we are able to hire Inuit social workers for all of our communities, we will always have social

workers who come from other cultures and backgrounds. Can the minister describe what efforts are made to provide orientation and training to social workers to ensure that they act in accordance with Inuit societal values as required by the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is seeking clarification on the training program. I can tell the Member for Aivilik that we are now starting to hire beneficiaries as social workers at the higher-level positions. We're starting to see Inuit being hired at the managerial level and I am very pleased to see that. We follow the recommendations of the communities and we expect to see more Inuit social workers in the future.

Arctic College has a training program and by working with Nunavut Arctic College, we're working on strengthening the training program and including the incorporation of Inuit societal values. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of our social workers burn out under the pressures of the job. Can the minister describe what supports are made available to Nunavut social workers to help them face the heavy challenges of working in Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Aivilik for that question and being sensitive to social workers. They do get tired and they need respite. I know that the social workers have very good directors. After the session, I'll be able to provide a more detailed response to the member. I would like to thank the member for being concerned about social workers in Nunavut.

When I was in Cambridge Bay, four people completed their social worker training for the first year and three people from the Kivalliq who are taking that training. I congratulated the students and shook my hands with them. It was very good to see Inuit graduating with the social worker programs so that they can work within their homes without having to leave their communities. Some potential individuals could take the training program and they don't have to leave communities to take on the training, so I am very pleased about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 068 – 4(2): Support for Search and Rescue

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

In my Member's Statement of yesterday, I paid tribute to Gjoa Haven's search and rescue volunteers.

The Department of CGS' 2011-12 annual report on emergency management indicates that "local search and rescue volunteers are supported with funding to cover gas, food and other expendables during a search. There is an annual budget to cover these expenses. There is a current limit of \$5,000 per community search." Can the minister indicate if these funding levels are being reviewed? 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. As I indicated previously, we are currently looking at what other options we have in regard to search and rescue. Certainly, we will take everything into consideration. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is at most times that our local search and rescue committees raise their own money to buy gas.

The department's Community Search and Rescue Organization Support Policy expired on May 31, 2010. This policy addresses such matters as funding for training and equipment. Can the minister indicate when an updated policy will be completed? 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. As the member indicated, we are looking at other options as well and we will update the House once we have completed our work on this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. Can the minister indicate when his department's next annual report on emergency management in Nunavut will be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? 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. As soon as I have that information, I will provide the information to the House. Thank you.

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

Question 069 – 4(2): Review of Harvester Support Programs

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

A number of questions have been asked this week about the government's plan to undertake a comprehensive program review. My questions today will focus on the issue of programs in support of our hunters and harvesters.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that many of our constituents are not going to be employed by government or the mining sector, and I believe that our full-time hunters should not be living in poverty.

Earlier this month, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition released the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan. One of the objectives of the plan is to “establish a Harvesters Support Working Group” in order to “support harvesters so they can pursue traditional livelihoods.” Can the minister describe how the Department of Environment is participating in the Harvesters Support Working Group? 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 would like to thank the member for asking the question. In the government’s *Sivumut Abluqta* mission, our plan is to establish a good Harvesters Support Program. One of the issues raised in a recent meeting is about support to the Nunavut Food Security Coalition. We are working with NTI on the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan to make sure that we are working to establish a good Harvesters Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In 2006, the Government of

Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated undertook a comprehensive review of the harvester support programs offered by both organizations. The final report from this process noted that “linkages with the GN’s income support program need to be developed so that the two programs are complementary.” Can the minister indicate if the government’s upcoming review of its hunter support programs will take this issue into consideration? 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. The Harvesters Support Program was agreed to in 2006. Some terms were agreed to and some were not. At the present time, NTI’s Harvesters Support Program just recently was discontinued. I know that this fall, after we have discussed it some more, NTI will be bringing about and planning with us for the Harvesters Support Program. At the present time, they are looking into it to make sure that it includes everyone. Once NTI has completed their study, we will be able to make some adjustments for this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment has a memorandum of understanding in place with the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission concerning coverage

programs for harvesters. Can the minister indicate if this MOU will be reviewed as part of his department's work to update its programs in support of hunters and harvesters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that provides the support to the harvesters injured on the job. It's already updated and renewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Question 070 – 4(2): Annual Reports under ILPA

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

The Speaker's list of tabling of documents or standing tabling requirements of the Speaker up to March 13, 2014 states that the Department of Culture and Heritage has two items of annual reports with respect to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* according to section 27 with respect to the annual report.

The 2010-11 annual report has not been tabled to date. I would like to ask the minister: can the minister tell us when those reports will be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will check into our department's annual reports. I cannot respond to the member as of yet, but I will let the member know after I have checked on the annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update us as to why those annual reports have been delayed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, I was not a minister in the previous government and I will look into the annual reports and I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the annual reports, we would like to read them as members. I would like to ask one last question. How else can we make sure that these annual reports are tabled? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that and I will find out when those annual reports will be tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 071 – 4(2): The Need for a Children’s Group Home in Nunavut

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier about my concern over the government’s decision to no longer operate children’s group homes in Nunavut. Can the minister clearly explain why this decision was made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Rankin Inlet (interpretation ends) South (interpretation) for asking why there has been a decision to no longer operate children’s group homes in Nunavut.

On December 11, 2012, the children’s group home in Rankin Inlet was closed down and the group home is now being used by the Department of Health for their mental health or psychiatric office. Children who need to be housed in a

group home are now located down south.

If possible, we will have set aside a place in Nunavut where they can be looked after in private homes. We’re trying to help the children out and it’s not very good when they’re sent down south, but they have to be looked after properly and that’s what we’re trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In every society, some individuals require more care than others. Our children are one of the most vulnerable and sensitive groups in our population. Can the minister explain why the decision was made to send Nunavut children away from home just because they need specialized care? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South (interpretation) for his question. Yes, I agree with the member that the children have to be looked after properly because they require better care. We have to make sure that they receive that care, not just to be given to individual homes to be looked after.

If we can do it another way, we want to make sure that they’re looked after properly. If we can’t look after them properly, some children who require

specialized care have to be looked after. I would like to make sure that the member understands that these children need really good care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The very fact that we have children who need specialized care that cannot be provided in a private home shows that we need a children's group home in Nunavut. Will the minister reconsider her decision to no longer operate a children's group home in Nunavut, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member from Rankin Inlet, Alex Sammurtok, for asking that question. He wants to know whether the children's group home will no longer be operated in Nunavut. There's already a group home open in Chesterfield Inlet.

At the present time, we are trying to provide better care for children in Nunavut who have to be in group homes and we want to make sure that we have best practices for those children. We closed down that group home in 2012 and that building is now being utilized by the Department of Health.

If we are going to look after the children, I would like to make sure that I make the member understand the best way that we

can care for the children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 072 – 4(2): Arviat Water Treatment and Distribution

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

As I informed the minister during yesterday's sitting, my questions today will focus on the water treatment and distribution needs of Arviat residents.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat currently has six water trucks that share access to the water reservoir's only pump outlet, and the wait time for each truck can be up to 35 minutes, depending on the time of the year and the water conditions in the reservoir.

Mr. Speaker, this restricts the flow of regular water deliveries from the reservoir to the residents' homes, a reservoir that is already insufficient for the demand of the community's fast-growing population.

If a second pump outlet is installed at the existing reservoir, more frequent water deliveries can be made to Arviat's residents, which in turn would reduce the number of residents who run out of water on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to working with the community to install a

second pump at Arviat's water reservoir? 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. Yes, my department has already undertaken to assign an additional storage facility for the water reservoir. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if my question was not clear. I'm asking the minister if he will work with the community to install a second water pump outlet to the existing reservoir. I am not demanding another reservoir this summer. 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. Yes, I would be very happy to look into installing another water distribution unit to the existing water reservoir. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Arviat's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan indicates that the useful lifespan of one

of its water reservoir cells will expire in 2016. "Cell #1," the larger of the two cells in the community's reservoir, was installed almost 20 years ago.

I think the minister sort of answered this, but can the minister indicate when his department intends to replace "Cell #1" of Arviat's water reservoir? 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 think I alluded to that already in one of my answers. However, at this point, in 2013, the water consumption in Arviat was a little over 82,000 cubic metres of water, and the existing reservoir has a capacity of 143,000 cubic metres. However, we are developing to install another reservoir in Arviat at some point based on the population projections for the next three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 073 – 4(2): Legal Services Board of Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question today for the Minister of Justice on a report that he has tabled in this House.

Mr. Speaker, one of the advantages of being an elected member of this legislature is that we get to practice our lifelong learning. I was hoping for a little

bit of an education from the Minister of Justice.

Yesterday, he tabled an annual report for the Legal Services Board. I noted with some interest within the mandate, due to the amount of growth and demand on the justice system, the Legal Services Board has responded by increasing its legal resources and developing better internal procedures to ensure that Nunavummiut are well represented in circuit courts across the territory.

I realize that it's not a government department, but I'm sure there is a lot of communication between his office and the Legal Services Board. What type of internal procedures were made to improve the services for Nunavummiut? 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. The Legal Services Board, from what I know, has added more staff because of the increasing number of judicial cases that they need to work on, especially within the expanded court circuits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, also within the annual report, it mentions that the Legal Services Board processed 312 applications for criminal representation, of which 252 were approved by March 31, 2012.

Due to the hiring of other lawyers through the Legal Services Board, what other options do Nunavummiut have to access legal representation outside of legal aid? Does this infringe upon access to legal representation? 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. They are their own entity and they have to review the applicant for legal aid properly to make sure that they don't make too much money and that they qualify to be under legal aid, for instance. They have to follow these policies. I can't answer why some of these people could not get represented because each one is looked at on an individual basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister might have misinterpreted a portion of my question. Access to legal representation in Nunavut, when you don't qualify under the Legal Aid Program, could be an arduous affair, from what I have understood.

Also in the annual report, the Legal Services Board handled 68 civil poverty applications up to March 31, 2012 and an additional 276 requests for referrals and assistance outside the court process.

The minister may recall some recent media coverage on foreclosures that Nunavummiut are going through. One of

the concerns is access to legal representation to these very vulnerable members of our territory. They are just not financially able to obtain proper legal counsel so that they can deal with their application through the courts to maintain their house possession. I'm just wondering if it's on the radar of the Legal Services Board to include this type of representation through the Legal Services 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. I like the idea that my colleague just mentioned. We are always looking for ways to improve things. The review will be completed in the near future and I will be meeting with the Legal Services Board again to see where we can find more resources. I will mention that to the board at the next meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 074 – 4(2): Nunavut Tourism

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation].

As I noted in my questions to the Minister of Finance yesterday concerning the government's upcoming review of its grants and contributions spending, Nunavut Tourism receives approximately \$1.8 million per year in

core funding from the Department of ED&T.

I am sure that the minister will agree that the Members of the Legislative Assembly who approve this funding and the taxpayers who supply this funding need to have confidence that Nunavut Tourism is using its resources prudently.

However, the last time that the annual report for Nunavut Tourism was tabled in the Legislative Assembly was on October 23, 2003, over a decade ago. Will the Minister of ED&T commit to resuming the practice of tabling Nunavut Tourism's annual reports and business plans in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to fellow residents of Nunavut. That is a good question. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we heard from the finance statement that we have to be very careful in our spending. We have to make sure that we spend the money properly.

Mr. Speaker, at the Kugluktuk meeting, this was defined and our department is following that with all of our programming to make sure that everything runs smoothly and make sure that we use the finances properly. We can make proper plans for the future to make sure that we stick with guidelines that we receive to make good use of our finances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the Department of ED&T negotiates a formal contribution agreement with Nunavut Tourism on an annual basis. This agreement specifies the results that Nunavut Tourism is expected to achieve with the funding that we provided.

Can the minister indicate what specific goals Nunavut Tourism is expected to achieve this coming year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Tourism has their own board and they run Nunavut Tourism and we provide funding for them. The organization is running well.

In regard to your question, I don't have the answer in front of me, but I can provide you with an answer at a later date, not today, though. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do want it. Thank you, Mr. Minister. My next question is that Iqaluit is the capital city of our territory and the primary gateway for visitors who are travelling from the south. It is

important that we support our local businesses and operators in the tourism sector.

Will the minister commit to having his department work with Nunavut Tourism to directly consult with Iqaluit stakeholders over the coming year to address the needs of this community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All communities are part of this tourism. There are other communities where tourists visit and they participate through their work. As a government, we support every single one of those other tourist organizations and that is what we have to do.

As a department, we will be well prepared in terms of addressing the issues and concerns about tourism. The smaller tourism organizations are also very important to the territory. They provide good services not just with our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 075 – 4(2): General Managers of LHOs

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the

minister responsible for the housing corporation.

My question is based on what is written in the May 27, 2014 *Hansard*. Mr. Speaker, I do know that it is unedited, but in reading them, when I asked a question, I was provided with a response. If I read it correctly, it doesn't look like my question at that time was really answered properly. Let me first of all ask a question.

In relation to the board members for housing associations and housing boards in the communities in relation to the general managers, they sign agreements that are properly and duly noted. The chief executive officers deal with issues concerning agreements. It is stated that every single thing must be proper, the i's must be dotted, and every single little thing must be met first. My question is related to removal of general managers. 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, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. I have stated repeatedly and I have provided an answer that there are different things that could be utilized by the housing association, not a single regional one. The Nunavut Housing Corporation also deals with rental housing units and public housing units.

In relation to his question of what we would do in a given situation, there are many issues that needed to be looked at in relation to the removal of a general

manager. If I understand the hon. member's question properly, whether the local housing associations have the power to move and fire, there are procedures already in place for dealing with issues such as these. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try and clarify my question as briefly as I can. In the very words of the hon. minister relating to the local housing boards, the way I understand him, if we are on the same page and in relation to the general manager, if everything is lovey-dovey and hunky-dory and there are absolutely no problems anywhere in relation to any of the responsibilities and their living, can the Nunavut Housing Corporation, for their own reasons, remove the general manager of the local housing boards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, let me try to provide a short, concise answer. I keep stating that there are agreements in place, even within the Nunavut Housing Corporation. There are always understandings that are reached in

working for various boards. In relation to the hiring and firing of general managers, they have policies and procedures in place and there are usually many considerations that would need to be looked at. That's the kind of answer I can provide to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me, then, frame it this way. Has there been a situation in a community where a local housing board wanted to keep their general manager, but the Nunavut Housing Corporation overruled them and removed a local general manager of the local housing board? Have there been any situations like that? 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, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the hon. member the same as before. There are policies and procedures. If a local housing manager needed to be removed, there are proper procedures and policies that would need to be utilized. All of the various kinds of boards have proper structures like this. That is what I can tell the hon. member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Question 076 – 4(2): The Makimaniq Action Plan

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, in Minister Peterson's Budget Address for 2014-15, he mentioned that the government will complete and implement the *Makimaniq* Five-Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

Mr. Speaker, it states that the Department of Family Services, working with NTI and other partners, is developing community initiatives and building social networks.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister educate me on what role Family Services is playing within that group of stakeholders, and what type of initiatives and networks are they looking at implementing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk for the question regarding social supports. We follow these things according to guidelines because there are many people in the communities that go through difficult times. We are trying to come up a policy and framework that we could base our participation. We have continuing meetings with NTI. That is the way that I could provide the answer to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in the Budget Address, it mentions that it is bringing people together with a dedicated Poverty Reduction Fund. The anticipated allotment of money from that fund, what is the Department of Family Services role in that, and are there other stakeholders actually putting funds into this Poverty Reduction Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk for the question. In terms of how we would utilize the financial resources, as stated by the Minister of Finance, we meet with the communities and we are beginning to understand how we can frame the regulation in terms of creating a better quality of life.

We also work with the Department of Education in terms of ensuring that the children are raised properly and grow into responsible and respectable adults. We will be able to have discussions with them in terms of how to reduce poverty.

We also work with the local housing authorities and with the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. I can say that they have been providing assistance to us in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister may have misunderstood my question in some part. The Poverty Reduction Fund, what I'm looking for is: who is going to be contributing dollars to that fund and what is the anticipated budget of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk for that question about specific financial resources. That is the way I understand him. The financial resources could be provided, I think. I will provide an answer when I know the proper information in terms of the amount of dollars because I do not have those numbers at my fingertips at the moment. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would just like to ask if we can go back to Item 5 on the agenda, please.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. All those in favour of going back to Item 5. raise your hand. Thank you. Please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak: I recognized Gwen Healey earlier, but she was not here. Now that she is here, I would like to take

this time to welcome her to the Legislative Assembly and just to tell you that, once again, Gwen is a brilliant mind. She is working on her PhD, she has lived in Iqaluit all her life, and she graduated from Inuksuk High School. This is a really successful story that we can tell about Gwen, who has gone through the high school system here in Nunavut and is about to get her PhD. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 014 – 4(2): Public Service Annual Report 2012-2013

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Public Service Annual Report for the period 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2 and 3 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 3 – 4(2)... . Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sorry. I skipped a sentence. (interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 3 – 4(2), the committee will stay in session it reports itself out.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:28*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut who are listening and watching the proceedings. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut proceedings. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 2 and Bill 3. What is the wish of the committee?

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services and, if time permits, the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that

we first deal with the main estimates for the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2014-2015 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that Minister Ell and the witnesses can go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Welcome, Hon. Minister. For the record, could you introduce your officials at the witness table, please.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Interim Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak and to my left is our Interim Finance Controller, Johan Glaudemans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. Welcome officials to the witness table. We can now proceed to the review. We're on page H-5. Public Health.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. Thank you.

We will move on. Are there any questions to this page? Any further questions to page H-5? If there are no questions. Branch Summary. Health. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,857,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page H-6. Health. Branch Summary.

I'm sorry. I did not understand the Inuktitut version. I will read it in English. (interpretation ends) Health Care Service Delivery. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is home care and community care will continue to be a vital service when it comes to the elderly. Helping them stay at home and independent should be a priority of this government. Has your department reviewed this area of service to determine if the demand of this type of service is growing or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Before the minister responds, I would like to remind the regular members that if you have a question on page H-6, please raise your hand ahead of time so that we can put your name on the list. Moving on, (interpretation ends) hon. minister.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Home and Community Care Program is part of an assessment that is currently taking place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: One of the department priorities states to enhance long-term care services. Can you describe what types of enhancements are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the plan moving forward is identifying the strength of the current health care program, including the delivery of services in a culturally sensitive manner and lowering costs for out-of-community travel for health purposes, but identified limited training opportunities as a concern.

Also, part of the process is that down the road, what we're also looking at is when we're creating health centres the plan is to identify, perhaps two to however-many beds in the community can be set aside for either respite care and other programs for elders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you list-off some of the enhancements that are talked about in this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I'd like to have my deputy respond to that.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Ms. Keenainak, please.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the things that have been enhanced have been increase the frequency of home and community care certificate courses that are provided, such things as personal care skills and other opportunities. As an example during 2013-14. Through Nunavut Arctic College Healthy Living courses offered approaches to respectful caring, the professional role of a home care worker.

For this particular fiscal year we're looking at the following courses on human growth and development, recognition and referral of mental health and first aid.

Those are the kinds of things we're doing to provide additional training particular to home care workers. We're continuing to evaluate the needs at the community level to try and make sure that we have staff at the community level that are able to provide some of those services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Deputy Minister Keenainak. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Elder care is becoming a much needed service and is one area that I feel is growing in demand. I've brought this up before in the past. What is the status of the Comprehensive Elder Care Strategy now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are just in the process of starting that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Going on then; how is the Department of Health addressing the growing demand and need of providing mental health services at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on enhancing the mental health ability in the communities. Moving forward, we'd like to see more community psychiatric nurses and mental health workers, as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you minister for that answer. I'd like to go on in that area and ask how many mental health workers do we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you hold on a few minutes I saw it over here and I'll give it to you?

The mental health workers in the communities in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq region, and in other areas, the total of psychiatric nurses is 23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Are the numbers adequate to address the growing numbers of mental health issues that we have in Nunavut, including addictions and suicide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. What strategy do you have in place to increase the number of mental health workers to address the need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. There is a lot of work that has to be done in regard to mental health, but we are in the planning stages. We already answered the question.

(interpretation ends) The mental health and addictions framework for action is a plan to expand mental health and addictions services capacity with a long-term objective of moving from reliance on acute services to utilizing community-based support, prevention, and early intervention services.

The plan focuses on four key areas: quality programming, human resource

capacity development, community capacity building, and resource leveraging. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. It seems to me that one of the problems is that we do not have enough support in the communities. How are you going to build the support that can address your action plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mental health and addictions framework for action provides a blue print for developing a service continuum within the territory with emphasis on working with communities to enhance community-based support, prevention, and early intervention services.

The Department of Health is revising a business case aimed at achieving the following objectives: creating new and permanent mental health staffing positions in communities, moving forward the objective of having a psychiatric nurse working in all communities, filling the vacant skilled local workers position aimed at local workers without a formal education, and increasing the professional developments of work provided to frontline staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. When do you hope to have all of that implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Subject to adequate funding being invested, it is an objective of the mental health and addictions framework for action that, by April 2018, beneficiaries will fill at least 40 per cent of the frontline service provider positions within the mental health and addictions services system in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for that answer. When you talk about psychiatric nurses, are you targeting that with Arctic College for the nursing program? Do you want to have 40 per cent beneficiaries in the list of personnel that you said that you would be setting at the community with? Does that include working with Arctic College's nursing program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the mental health workers that you have now supporters and trained well enough to deal with family and community trauma, especially surrounding the issue of suicides? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The psychiatric nurses are qualified with proper backgrounds in dealing those sorts of trauma and other issues that are facing Nunavummiut today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. Is that all, Ms. Angnakak? Moving on. I remind members that we're on page H-6, in Inuktitut C-6. Moving on with the next name on my list. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister is aware, addiction is a major problem and a big issue in Nunavut. Over the years, the Nunavut government has considered a number of different options for addressing addiction issues in the territory. In 2012-13, your department launched a 28-day Mobile Addiction Treatment Pilot Programming in Cambridge Bay. The program was evaluated in 2013-14. Was the program a success? If so, will it be delivered again in another community or are other initiatives being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to addictions, (interpretation ends) health works with local communities to develop and deliver addictions treatment projects in order to build knowledge about which service models are most effective in Nunavut. Annually health makes \$1.1 million in funding available to hamlets for the delivery of drugs and alcohol services.

The Cambridge Bay pilot project that the member is referring to, I believe, was a success and will be continued. Currently, there are beds in the facility. Treatment is made available for those in the community, as well as the surrounding area. There are day clinics as well.

At the current time, we are looking at the model and reviewing it. Moving forward, we're hoping to set up a similar program in a community, such as Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the minister given any thought to having a stand alone addictions treatment facility somewhere in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not looking at one individual place in a community where a lot of people can go. We're moving forward looking at Mobile Treatment

Centres within the communities, themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just explain to us what a Mobile Treatment Centre is? Just so we'll know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I'll ask my deputy minister, Ms. Keenainak, to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) You have my permission. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Mobile Addictions Treatment Program, the model that was used and evaluated... We're taking our lessons learned, what worked and what didn't work. We're also looking at other models. I know that there's a model in Northern Quebec. I know that there's another model from Labrador as well that we're also looking at as to how we can tailor that for Nunavut.

The Mobile Addictions Treatment Program is where it's in the community and they're able to have the services. They're not in an institution or is locked up. There's an opportunity for family members to participate in a client's treatment because we know that addiction also affects other family members. Addictions should be more

holistic. That's the kind of approach that the Mobile Addictions Treatment Program is.

As we indicated, the mobile addictions pilot project was from a southern jurisdiction and that's why we're looking at models like it to make it more relevant for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just more on the mobile thing, is it like a facility where people go and stay, like spend the night there, or people go there for the day and then go home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are 12 beds there and there are maybe four or five currently that are in the facility full time and several more that have day clinics. I can get the exact numbers to the member at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different topic here, the budget for community health centres is projected to decrease in 2014-15. What accounts for the decrease and will any services be reduced as a result of the decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand his question. I would like to ask the member what it is that is decreasing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. If you can clarify that, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 103 under Community Health Centres, the budget for 2013-14 was \$36 million, I guess it is, and \$299,000, and for 2014-15, it's \$35,298,000, a slight decrease. I just want clarification if any services will be reduced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have our finance controller, Johan Glaudemans, respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. Mr. Glaudemans.

Mr. Glaudemans: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for 2013-14 would have received additional funding in the supplementary appropriation that would have been a one-time amount. The department, from time to time, requests additional funding for areas during the year where there's either under-funding or overspending, depending upon how you look at it.

The current amount for 2014-15 is the initial main estimate. It is very possible

that during the year, we will come back to the Legislative Assembly with an additional funding request, but we do attempt to limit that. It is basically demand-driven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you as well, Mr. Glaudemans. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your department's priorities for 2014-15 is to improve the strategic management of federal program dollars administered by your department. Can you explain what kind of improvements you envision? Will there be more federal money available for community-based or issue-specific initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you as well, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Health will continue to develop more programs to take advantage of federal spending priorities in order to effectively use federal funding to provide the best possible health care for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik* Hon. Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: One of your department's priorities for 2014-15 will be to enhance long-term care service. Can you describe what kind of enhancements are being considered and whether any new facilities will be built? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already answered that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll go to a different topic. Information from appendix A-IV-2 of the draft main estimates indicates that Non-Insured Health Benefits funding will be decreased for 2014-15, despite an increase in the revised estimates for 2013-14. How is the amount of federal funding provided for the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Keenainak to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that I'm on the right page.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The original budget that we were told was \$27,750,000 and depending on the amount of Inuit and First Nations, mainly Inuit in Nunavut, go out for services. We do flag to the federal government the additional costs and then they do provide the additional costs to the department.

For this fiscal year, we're projecting a slight increase but again during the year it depends on the number of NIHB

clients that we have to charge back then we would be dialoguing with them, which we do regularly, to make sure that they're aware if it's going to be higher. Then there will likely be an adjustment depending on how things go. But that's the initial amount that we've been told by the Department of Health, Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Ms. Keenainak. Let us proceed, Mr. Rumbolt, on page H-6 please.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my question I need to go back a bit in history in order to get my point across today.

On March 1, 2013, which was 15 months ago, the minister of the day announced and I quote, "\$600,000 to increase the staff compliment of community health nurses of three-nurse stations to four-nurse stations in three communities in the Kivalliq region."

On March 4, I asked the minister of the day which communities will be going from a three-nurse station to a four-nurse station. I was told it was Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, and Sanikiluaq, which was welcoming news to my community.

Several weeks ago, I was at the health centre and I asked a nurse where the fourth nurse was, and she did not have any information about it.

On May 23 of this year, I asked a question in the House to the Minister of Health, and my question was, "How many full-time nursing staff positions currently exist at the Sanikiluaq Health Centre?" Her reply to me was that Sanikiluaq has three full-time nurses.

Can the minister clarify today which statement is true, the statement from 15 months ago or the statement in the House a few days ago? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2013, the department received authority and funding for three nurse positions in the Kivalliq region, one for Sanikiluaq, one for Coral Harbour, and one for Repulse Bay. All three new positions have been filled with full-time employees. As well, the Sanikiluaq Health Centre staffing has been increased from two nurses to three nurses as of April 2013.

In addition to the significant increase in workload in Sanikiluaq, through reallocation of existing resources, the department has increased the nursing staff to four nurses by hiring a casual nurse to fill the fourth position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What she is saying, then, is that 15 months ago, what the minister stated in the House was actually not correct, we were not a three-nurse station and that we were a two-nurse station.

You just mentioned that we would be up to four nurses, but one of the nurses is a casual. Does that mean we will now be a three and a half nurse station or will we be at four full-time positions in our community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is a confusion with your supervisor of health programs, who is also a nurse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, the half-time position nurse is the head nurse who does other duties and she is a part-time nurse seeing patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have my deputy minister, Ms. Keenainak, answer the meaning of a casual nurse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sanikiluaq does have a supervisor of health programs, which is called a SHIP, and three community health nurses, and I believe there is also a mental health nurse in there. Currently, the mental health nurse position is vacant, so it is going out for competition. One of the positions has not been filled permanently and is being filled through casual means.

We bring in casuals to make sure that the health centre in Sanikiluaq has that complement. Depending on staffing issues and things like that, there may be

occasions that the full complement is not there, but the complement for the health centre is one SHIP plus three community health nurses and a mental health nurse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, are we fully staffed at that health centre? Do you we have the SHIP? I know she is there. Do we have three full-time nurses in place plus that casual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Keenainak answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: There is one position that is not permanently filled and is filled through casuals. The mental health nurse position just became vacant recently and is currently being covered by agency nurses when we're not able to hire a casual first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the position that's been filled as a casual and using agency nurses, what are the stumbling blocks from keeping you from filling this to a full-time position and not use casual? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Keenainak answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is planning on advertising that position in the near future. We're hoping to fill that position by the fall. Hopefully it will go for advertising fairly soon, but in the interim we are filling the position on a casual basis to make sure that there is coverage and to make sure there are adequate nurses in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know our present nursing station, there are only three apartments in there and if we're going to a fourth nurse there will be a requirement for staff housing. Has your department approached the Nunavut Housing Corporation for staff housing for this position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Keenainak answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this moment I don't have that information but we can double-

check to make sure that a housing request has been made for that particular position. Nursing positions are considered priority one when it comes to housing, so that is something we can definitely get back to the member on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's staff in clarifying the issue with the nursing situation in Sanikiluaq.

Back to my question in the House on May 23 when Ms. Ell responded to my question about nursing requirements in my community she also mentioned a psychiatric nurse. Are there plans to put a psychiatric nurse in the community of Sanikiluaq too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was talking about was the mental health nurse and that is the position that we just talked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. With the vacant mental health position, when do you expect to have that filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've answered that question previously. I'll say it again, Ms. Keenainak said, "in the fall." Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you'll indulge me I'll make a brief statement before I get to my question. As medical travel is a part of this budget, I'm sure other members, of my colleagues, will have questions regarding it. I've asked questions previously and after this comment I will forgo some questioning.

The minister has already committed to try and alleviate some of the stresses on this budget and traditionally there have been repeated requests for additional funding of that nature. In this budget item alone, there's almost \$60 million in medical travel, almost \$54 million in out-of-territory hospital costs in addition to mental health and addictions costs, long-term care costs that are spent outside the territory, elder care services and youth care services that are spent outside of the territory.

I went on record numerous times in this House on the lack of infrastructure and the need to provide these services to Nunavummiut in Nunavut.

I just want to really encourage the minister to work within her department to recognize that that is a lot of money being spent outside of this territory. I acknowledge that we can't pull these infrastructure projects on an overnight basis. That's why I won't ask any further questions on it. I just wanted to go on record, once again, on my desire for

your department to work towards maintaining those services and creating those services in Nunavut.

I just have a couple of brief questions within this category, Mr. Chairman. I have noted, with some interest, there are a number of Acts that are up for review by your department, and it's a lot of pressure on your policy staff.

In the priorities for 2013-14 alone, there are two Acts that are up for amendments. As it's stated from the status, that the department developed a legislative proposal for both those Acts: the *Mental Health Act* and the *Vital Statistics Act*. We have yet to see the legislative proposals. Is there going to be a timeline from the department on when we will be able to advance those projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did answer this question the other day with another member asking the same question. I'll read out the legislative agenda once again. We're hoping to do a small legislation proposal with a larger legislative proposal through the years for the fall of 2014 the *Vital Statistics Act*; the *Mental Health Act* for the fall of 2015; the *Public Health Act* in the winter of 2015; an *Unregulated Professions Act* by the spring of 2016; and *Medical Professions Act and Regulations* by the spring of 2015; and the *Health Privacy Legislation Act* by the fall of 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Minister Ell. Thank you for clarifying that. It was me that asked the question the other day. I was paying particular attention to two specific Acts.

Mr. Chairman, also in the priorities under 2014-15, there is work towards the implementation of an infection prevention and control program in order to protect patients and staff from infectious diseases in Nunavut healthcare facilities. What are the risks of not having this program in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the specifics in front of me. I'll see if Ms. Keenainak has that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the infection prevention and control program is to protect patients and healthcare workers from infections. I think we've heard in southern jurisdictions where patients that have gone to the hospital and then get sick with something else. So the IPAC program, as we're calling it, would include standards and protocols for separating infectious patients from others, for the proper cleaning of healthcare facilities, and for the use of protective equipment. That would be making that standard in all of our health facilities.

I know that work has progressed whether has been a manual developed for our

janitorial staff in all the communities just to standardize how to clean bodily fluids, and things like that. On the standardized things as the kinds of cleaning supplies in all our health facilities, those are the kinds of things that the department is working on this particular task. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Let me remind members that we are on page H-6. Mr. Mikkungwak continuing.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. A few days ago I had ask a question relating to the non-insured health benefits in relation to the eligible Inuit. I know that an answer was provided however, I would like a specific answer.

For example, the MLA from Gjoa Haven we are Inuit. Would we be treated the same way? What does eligible Inuit? What do you mean when you say eligible Inuit? Are some Inuit not eligible?

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): All the Inuit in Canada, wherever they may live, whether they live in the provinces. Any person who is recognized as an Inuk and considered to be First Nations people, those are the people referred too.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the

minister because it is now clear. The next question then, moving on to some other subject in relation to the business plan, on page 103, the first one where it says professional practice, it states in the last part, (interpretation ends) “also manages accrediting, registration and licensing of health care providers.” My question here is: how many nurses in Nunavut are being licensed for this? Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have that at my fingertips. I can provide that to the house through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will get that answer once it has been drafted. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much. If possible, could there be a breakdown regionally? For example in Baker Lake, our population increased and I think we need to have six nurses. I’m wondering if all those six have been licensed. I’m just making a statement.

However, the next one in relation to the mental health and addictions section, having dealt with it for over a 14-year period where I worked. In the Third Assembly... . My question is in relation to the mental health and addictions framework was dealt with by the third assembly.

They were thinking that those who deal with those things, the staff that is. Some of them would have been working at the hamlet municipal level began to work

within the government civil service. Is that still in use?

Chairman: Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Perhaps if the question could be drafted once again. Could you clarify your question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me speak in English then. (interpretation ends) At the time of the Third Legislative Assembly, the mental health and addictions framework was thought at that time. I was an employee back then for 14 years. Part of the mental health and addictions framework strategy was to have the community-based addictions counsellors who were employed by the hamlets by respective communities would become Government of Nunavut employees providing that service still but would become Government of Nunavut employees. Has that been followed through? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not too familiar with this, but we can review that and take a look at it and provide an answer at a later time.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ell. Do I understand then that you will be coming back to us provide an answer to the Legislative Assembly? Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will endeavour to understand what the status of the decision we were able to get a clarification and we will make an advisement.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Moving along, under medical transportation, I know this is a very sensitive issue regarding the medical travel policy.

Regarding medical travel policy, the question I have is the majority of my constituents who go on medical travel and who are going to be undergoing surgery once they get to Winnipeg, Manitoba have been advised why do you not have an escort, and considering the type of surgery, after your surgery is complete you cannot carry anything over 10lbs, and the doctors question the client. Has that issue been taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Medical patients that are traveling for medical reasons all have different and varying reasons for traveling out-of-territory or to health centres and it would be a case-by-case basis. We would have to deal with it on a case-by-case basis, and I would like Ms. Keenainak to explain further about a

meeting that just took place recently.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a recent meeting that took place the week of May 5 in Rankin Inlet and various players were at the table, like Health Canada, WSCC, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Health, which included directors, case monitors, finance managers, insurance managers, and medical travel employees. We discussed the policy to make sure that it was understood and that it was applied consistently.

Issues that we included were ones I have raised to staff to make sure that it is being consistently applied and that we rely on clinical advice when a patient needs an escort or not, especially before or after surgery.

We are continuing to have discussions among staff across the territory to make sure that the policy is being consistent, especially when something like that happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. I guess the reason why I pointed that out is because a doctor who is going to perform surgery has an idea of your physical limitations after surgery. I think that takes merit on its own considering the fact that he is the one that is performing the surgery and he is fully knowledgeable about his practice. I just wanted to point that out.

I just have one additional question, again, going back to professional practice. How often is that monitored across the territory considering there are so many communities within our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Before I turn it over to the hon. minister, may I remind myself, as the Chair, and remind all members here that for the benefit of everyone listening on TV or radio, please keep in mind that we need to cognizant of our interpreters. They're having to keep up when we speak. With that, *Qujannamiik*. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask Ms. Keenainak to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All nurses need to be licensed in order to work as a nurse in the territory. When a letter of offer is made to a nurse, the conditions in their letter of offer says that you need to be registered and licensed within the territory. A nurse needs to go through the Professional Practice Office to go through the licensing process to be licensed. That will confirm. If they're not licensed, then they cannot work as a nurse in the territory.

If there are issues with a nurse, in terms of licensing complaints, those would be brought forward to the Registered Nurses Association from the NWT and Nunavut, who investigate certification, and so forth, but they must be licensed.

We work with the Nursing Association, as well with the Professional Practice Office. In order to work, all nurses have to be licensed in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Keenainak for the response. I still have questions concerning this issue. In Baker Lake the population is approximately 2,400. Also very close to the community there is a mining camp that is happening. With that mine close to the community of Baker Lake, we're supposed to have six nurses in our community. We've never had six nurses. During the flu season, I understand fully that the nurses get busy.

When many people get the flu, the nurses get really tired. Sometimes when people call to the nurses, sometimes the nurses just hang up the phone. Patients get scared to call the nurses in some days. Sometimes there is an argument between the nurses and patients. It's not good.

How do you deal with that kind of an issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This week when the member was asking in regard to the nurses in his community, I responded to his question at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. In English we are on page H-6, and in Inuktitut C-6. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to my colleague's question I need some clarification. In the business plan for O&M, under Professional Practice, it also manages the credentialing, registration, and licensing of health care providers. The Registered Nurses Association of Nunavut and the NWT, can you elaborate further as to how they work with the NWT and Nunavut unions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information in front of me so therefore I cannot respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ell. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Does the department provide licensing to the health care providers or is it the registered nurses association that provides licensing? If the minister can elaborate about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Keenainak respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A nurse needs to be registered as a nurse to the registered nurses' association and they have to meet their criteria as a registered nurse. The professional practice ensures that they're licensed to work as a nurse in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Keenainak, for the explanation. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you for your response to my question. Moving on, home care; I have a question about home care. I believe home care is under this line item. I need further clarification on how many home care workers do we have in my constituency of Kimmirut. If the department officials have that information.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only say that in Kimmirut, for the person-years, there are two person-year nurses that are permanent and at times there's one casual nurse. For Kimmirut home and community care services, they have not changed. Home care is still available.

If home care needs in the community increase and additional supports are required, arrangements are usually made that meet the identified assessed need.

Anyone can make a referral or request for home care services. Once a referral has been received, a nurse will do an

assessment to determine the person's need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Minister Ell. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The referrals that she mentioned, who do they refer that individual to?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to move on to the medical transportation. I believe it's a proposal for \$59 million. Does that include the boarding homes, such as Tammaativvik? Is that line item including Tammaativvik?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Can you give us a clarification? Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding line item that the member identifies is funding from NIHB. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ell, Mr. Joanasie was asking in this proposed \$59 million, under medical transportation, I believe he was asking whether the O&M for medical transportation is included in this proposed line item. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the

question. This line item of \$59 million is for medevac services and scheduled airline medical transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for the clarification, Minister Ell. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): For the proposed medical transportation, this line item has increased from 2013-14. I was wondering what the historical estimates for this line item has been in past years, to ensure that budgeting for it is accurate for medical transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Minister Ell

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These estimates are based on historical costs from the past with a 6 percent average annual growth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for the explanation. We are on H-6. Department of Health, branch summary, health care service delivery. Total... Mr. Mikkungwak, did you raise your hand? Please proceed.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing me to ask another question. I have one question. (interpretation ends) You can rule me out of order. I just have one question here. Mental health and addictions, at the Third Assembly when it was, I guess we could say divorcing from Health, would it not have been more suited to tie in with Family Services, or what was the reason why it stayed with Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. (interpretation ends) If you want to stick to your word, you have asked your one question.

(interpretation) We are on page H-6. Health. Branch Summary. Health Care Service Delivery. Total O&M, to be Voted. \$257,890,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page H-3. Department Summary. Health. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$298,947,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed that the Department of Health is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) for we are concluded with your department.

>> *Laughter*

If you have any closing remarks, you now have an opportunity to make them. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From questions posed this week, in my closing comments, I would like to clarify some of the questions that were asked, such as the environmental health officers who inspect public housing and rental units when a complaint is received from a tenant or landlord. The question posed was, "Do they include private homes?"

Environmental health officers (EHOs) rarely inspect privately owned homes and only do so upon the request of the homeowner. These inspections are for advice only, as EHOs have no regulatory authority over privately owned homes.

The environmental health officers conduct inspections relating to drinking water and sewage systems. EHOs inspect reservoirs, water sources, pumphouses, treatment and distribution of drinking water, water trucks and their operations, sewage lagoons, and landfills. EHOs have inspected a total of 414 facilities across the territory since April 1, 2013; 91 in the Kitikmeot, 118 in the Kivalliq, and 205 in the Baffin region.

There are five environmental health officer positions, one in the Kitikmeot based in Cambridge Bay, one in the Kivalliq based in Rankin Inlet, and one in the Baffin based in Pangnirtung and two in Iqaluit. Staffing competitions are in progress for vacant positions. These positions are in Rankin Inlet and in Pangnirtung that recently became vacant. The staffing process is underway.

In terms of the Baffin dental contracts, they are being met. The terms of the Baffin dental contract are being met. The

paediatric oral surgery days provided in Churchill were over and above any service days in the Baffin dental contract.

Children on the waitlist for dental surgery treatment under general anaesthetics as of May 22, 2014 total in all regions is 574.

The administration of the boarding home contract monitoring, the boarding home contracts contain clauses that obligate the contractor to maintain a safe and clean environment. The contractor must maintain a hygienic environment to a standard acceptable to the Department of Health, maintain a schedule of operations and preventative maintenance activities to ensure proper operation of the facility, and meet the health and safety standards of the jurisdiction where the boarding home is located.

Boarding homes are regularly inspected by environmental health officers and workers, health and safety staff who are employed within the respective jurisdictions. The department is notified of any deficiencies and corrective action is taken.

In 2013-14, there were 17,082 returned medical trips taken, less than one percent of all medical travel bookings experienced medical appointment booking difficulties.

In closing, I would like to thank my staff, Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak, and Corporate Director, Johan Glaudemans, and all the questions that members raised. I will follow-up on some of the comments provided this week and thank all members. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. As Chair, I would like to thank you for the promise that you would get back to us with the questions that we had. Thank you for giving us a quick turnaround by responding to our questions.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the witnesses from the witness table. We will be dealing with Community and Government Services. Just before we start on that department, we will take a 10-minute break.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:47 and resumed at 16:58*

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

Chairman (interpretation): We can now proceed to the Committee of the Whole. We are going to be dealing with the Community and Government Services. Just before we go in page-by-page, Minister Sammurtok is already at the witness table. I would like to ask Mr. Sammurtok if he has officials that he would like to sit with.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the Hon. Minister's officials proceed to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms if you can assist the staff of the minister. Thank you.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Sammurtok, for the record and for our information, can you introduce your officials?

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, we have Deputy Minister Roy Green on my right, and to my left is Corporate Controller for our department, Gershom Moyo. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) Mr. Green and Ms. Moyo, welcome to the witness table. (interpretation) Continuing on. Mr. Minister if you have any opening remarks, you can proceed. Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased for this opportunity for appear before the Committee of the Whole to review the Department of Community and Government Services 2014-15 main estimates and business plan.

We have had a very productive and informative discussions at the standing committee phase. I always welcome the opportunity to clarify any issues and concerns my colleagues may have in regard to the work we are undertaking on behalf of the GN and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services continues to manage programs and services for local governments,

government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, property and asset management and sport and recreation.

When the Petroleum Products Division revolving stock is included. CGS has an overall annual budget of \$420 million, with nearly 370 positions spread out across Nunavut. Our projected budget includes a net increase of \$1.12 million over last year's main estimates.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. The cost to purchase fuel has increased over the last two years. As a result the previous retail prices were no longer sustainable. The increase in the retail price to allow PPD to recover the increases in its operating costs. Nunavut's retail price still remain comparable and lower than other Canadian jurisdictions.

On April 1, 2013, CGS rolled out the new Municipal Funding Program. This program was developed with extensive input from Mayors, SAOs, NAM, and NAMA. The program formula provides transparency on how the department funds municipalities. The program has been widely welcome by municipalities and feedback has been positive.

The Funding Formula is subject to review every three years. This year CGS will provide \$45,550,000 in funding to communities under this program, up from \$45,175,000 last year. This slight increase is to fund additional O&M on municipal infrastructure completed last year and turned over the municipalities.

CGS continues to strongly support the activities of the Municipal Training

Organization. MTO has been providing much needed training for municipal employees for over ten years now. The training provided by MTO allows municipal employees to gain skills that assist them in delivering services to residents with training costs that are low and affordable to the municipalities. CGS remains MTO's largest funding partner and are pleased to continue our funding level to MTO.

Iksivautaaq, water licensing and compliance has been a long standing issue for Nunavut municipalities. The department has been working diligently with municipalities to ensure that water licenses are renewed and that communities comply with the conditions of these licenses. We have included funding in our estimates this year to allow the department to hire a manager to coordinate this process and work jointly with regional municipal engineers to provide support and training to municipalities in renewing their licenses.

We are now approaching two years since sports and recreation returned to Community and Government Services. The division just completed its support activities for Team Nunavut's participation at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks, Alaska. It has been a very successful and enjoyable event for our athletes. It gave them a great opportunity to participate in their respective sports and showcase their culture on an international level.

Under our agreement with the Western Canada Lotto Corporation, sports and recreation added a third lottery terminal this year and will add one more terminal again this year. Negotiations are currently underway with WCLC to see

the program expand to four additional Nunavut communities in 2015.

The expansion of this program brings in revenue to the government that is then reinvested into sport and recreation opportunities for our residents.

Mr. Chairman, we continue our work on the development of a regulatory framework for the *Nunavut Building Code Act*. The department is undertaking research on best practices and regulations currently in place in other Canadian jurisdictions including the two other territories.

This research should be completed before the end of 2014 which will lead to the development of regulations early in 2015. The department has established a building advisory committee as required under the act, which held its inaugural meeting in March 2014.

Chairman, Community and Government Services continues to work in providing core services such as water, wastewater and solid waste in each of Nunavut's communities.

For example, the partnership with Dalhousie University is providing insight on factors that may impact the performance of treatment systems. This will allow Nunavut to provide preliminary recommendations to federal regulators in the development of appropriate and current quality standards for Nunavut and the far north.

Our Property and Asset Management Division continues to pursue process improvements to ensure the GN's preventative maintenance and lifecycle renewal initiatives will support higher

performance and longer lasting buildings.

We are currently undertaking a program review to update our maintenance management standards and to examine gaps in existing delivery standards. Our energy management pilot project in Iqaluit has been completed and we are currently in the measurement and verification stage.

First year data does show energy-savings and we are now working with our federal partners to apply for additional funding for another energy management project in the Kivalliq region. These initiatives include energy efficient lighting, products, occupancy sensors, building controls, and solar panels among other initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, Community and Government Services continues to invest in government operations by increasing funding to support our IT infrastructure. The number of people on the government network continues to expand due to decentralization and other factors. In addition, the number and types of devices that users need to work to communicate continues to increase. Community and Government Services is committed and continues to strive to improve telecommunications for the government as a whole.

This commitment has allowed the government to build a telecommunication infrastructure capable of managing over three times the amount of bandwidth to improve program and service delivery. With forward thinking and new technologies, Community and Government Services will be ready to deliver new network to

provide even better government services to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the department's protective services division has been working hard to improve search and rescue response programs available to the public. We continue to train community SAR organizations, hamlets and individuals in assisting the RCMP and military in responding to searches.

The number of search and rescue incidents is on the rise in Nunavut. In 2013, there were 222 searches for over 450 individuals. We continue to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase our awareness of safety preparedness measures for all individuals going out on the land or water.

The loss of funding from the federal government for a joint emergency preparedness program has impacted the cost of program delivery in 2013, and we are actively looking at other sources of revenue to replace this program.

The territorial emergency plan, along with the Department of Community and Government Services' emergency plans, has been completed and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this year. The department has also completed a guidance document to assist others in developing their emergency plans.

Iksivautaaq, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the progress that my department is making in addressing the goals of this government.

CGS is a service-based department and we will strive to improve our service to all our clients. We will work collaboratively with all departments and

our municipal government partners to meet the goals of *Sivumut Abluqta* as we step forward together in building Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and [Economic Development] have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt, please proceed.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget of \$220,757,000 has increased by approximately 5.9 percent since the introduction of the department's 2013-14 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 368. This is an increase of eight positions from the 2013-14 main estimates.

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

The standing committee notes that one of the department's priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to introduce amendments to the *Consumer Protection*

Act. The issue of amending this legislation to provide for the regulation of cheque cashing fees, money transfer fees, and payday loans has been raised in the Legislative Assembly on a number of occasions, and the standing committee looks forward to the timely introduction of these amendments.

The Department of Community and Government Services has the lead responsibility for the Government of Nunavut's procurement function and is responsible for preparing its annual reports on contracting, procurement and leasing activities. The Minister of Community and Government Services is responsible for ensuring that these annual reports are tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner. The standing committee notes with concern that the government's 2012-13 annual reports have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, on March 1, 2012, the Legislative Assembly was informed that the Government of Nunavut would be initiating a "comprehensive internal review of its public procurement practices." This process was to have been coordinated with the joint review of the NNI Policy that has been undertaken by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Chairman, a number of concerns have been raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding issues related to the government's contracting and procurement practices, including the question of whether the current Contracting Appeals Board should be replaced with a new body that has a broader mandate to hear appeals of

government contract awards based on evaluative factors beyond simply the application of the NNI Policy. The standing committee urges the minister to table the results of the government's comprehensive internal review of its public procurement practices in a timely manner so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly have the opportunity to consider its observations and recommendations.

The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the government's primary municipal funding programs, including the Municipal Funding Program, the Water and Sewage Funding Program, and the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. The department's proposed 2014-15 main estimates include projected expenditures of approximately \$60 million on its five major municipal funding programs.

The standing committee notes that a number of the department's policies in this area, including its Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy, appear to have expired. The standing committee encourages the minister to ensure that these key policies are reviewed and updated on a periodic basis.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2014-15 main estimates include \$850,000 in funding for the Municipal Insurance Exchange to "offset incremental costs associated with municipal insurance coverage and to implement loss control program initiatives with a focus on such critical areas as fire training and fire prevention." The standing committee supports the government's ongoing support of NAMIX until such time as the

system can become self-funding and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that its "cooperative work supporting the Department of Justice on simplifying land review and registry will contribute to objectives of more home ownership and community-based sustainable economies." The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year are to "work with communities to address issues on land development and accessibility of land for residential and commercial buildings," and to "prepare and develop a workplan for a land referendum which has been set to occur in 2015." The standing committee emphasizes the importance of the department working closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation in these areas.

The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that the department "has completed work on an accurate inventory of assets and condition ratings for all facilities." It also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "finalize the development of a strategic plan for addressing maintenance of community and government assets."

The standing committee encourages the minister to table a copy of its new facilities inventory and condition ratings report in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity. This information will be of benefit to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and will serve to complement and update information that has been previously published in the integrated community sustainability

plans that have been produced for Nunavut's municipalities.

On February 28, 2014, the department issued a *Request for Information for Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory*. The RFI closed on March 28, 2014. The department's business plan indicates that "a Public-Private Partnership model was applied to the Iqaluit Airport project and a similar model is presently being investigated by the department to determine its feasibility as a means to address upgrades to solid waste infrastructure across Nunavut. The applicability of P3 initiatives for other infrastructure projects will continue to be examined."

Mr. Chairman, given the heightened public awareness of the need to address Nunavut's aging solid waste management infrastructure and to explore new technologies, such as incineration, the standing committee encourages the minister to report to the House at the earliest opportunity on the results of his department's recent *Request for Information for Potential Planning for Solid Waste Management Methods for Nunavut Territory*.

Mr. Chairman, a related issue concerns water quality in Nunavut. Members will recall that testimony provided to the House earlier this year indicated that a number of communities in Nunavut are not in compliance with the terms and conditions of their water licences. The department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year are to "deliver technical training to communities on water monitoring methods" and to "work with Aboriginal

Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Nunavut Water Board to develop a compliance plan for water licensing in the territory.”

The standing committee also notes that two of the department’s goals for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal years are to “develop an environmental workplan for the *Municipal Wastewater Effluent Strategy*, as per agreement by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment,” and to “propose appropriate effluent quality standards for Nunavut to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.”

Mr. Chairman, MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly about the importance of drinking water safety and quality in Nunavut.

The standing committee recommends that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive annual report on water quality in all of Nunavut’s communities. The standing committee also notes that there are a number of water testing requirements currently provided for in the Public Water Supply Regulations made under the *Public Health Act*.

A new *Building Code Act* was passed by the legislative Assembly in 2012. The department’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its goals for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to “develop new regulations for the *Building Code Act*.” Sections 23 and 24 of the *Building Code Act* came into force in September of 2013. These sections provide for the establishment of a Nunavut Building Advisory Committee. A number of members were appointed to this

committee in March of this year. The standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the activities of this committee.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year, Members of the Legislative Assembly held hearings on the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Safety of Schools and Childcare Facilities in Nunavut. The standing committee notes that the department’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its goals for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to “review existing regulations under the *Fire Prevention Act* and the *Technical Standards and Safety Act* to ensure alignment with the *Building Code Act*.”

The department also indicates that it will “work with the Department of Education to finalize and implement the *Fire Safety Planning Guidelines for School Facilities*” and “begin to develop an implementation plan to broaden the *Fire Safety Planning Guidelines* to include other facilities in other departments.”

The standing committee notes with concern that the department’s 2013 Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshall under the *Fire Prevention Act* has not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the *Emergency Measures Act* and the operations of the territorial Emergency Management Organization. The department’s 2011-12 annual report under the *Emergency Measures Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 1 of 2012. However, its 2012-

13 and 2013-14 annual reports have not yet been tabled.

The standing committee strongly supports initiatives on the part of the department to work closely with community-based search and rescue organizations to address such issues as training and equipment needs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. You read very well. (interpretation) Before we proceed to the page-by-page review, if there any general comments on the opening comments, I would like to give you the opportunity now. Are there any general comments? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my first question is: in your opening statement, it said that you have a net increase of \$12 million. Can you tell us what this is due to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This increase of \$12 million is for various cost increases related to buildings in the communities, office buildings and whatnot, in terms of the cost of maintaining them, and \$12 million plus is for cost of shipping, which is about a \$300,000 increase in the transportation cost through ships, and use of

information technology and this is a \$4 million increase. The office leases on the buildings in communities have been increased by almost \$2 million. Other increases are attributed to salary increases, which is at least an increase of \$580,000. For recreation and for contracts, we had two more staff, \$306,000. For search and rescue, \$250,000 has been set aside. We're able to employ a manager of municipal works. We made that increase to that amount. For the use of property, \$794,000. For fuel, it was increased to \$621,000. The total is \$12,360,000. That is how that figure was arrived at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The leased property, is that for staff housing? What is it for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize. Thank you. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are for office leases for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We talk about the cost of purchase fuel that has increased over the last two years. What strategies do you have you implemented to keep our fuel at as low cost as possible when we are purchasing it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will hand this over to my deputy minister to elaborate since he worked with it, if that is permissible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The petroleum products division has an early purchase program that they try to take advantage of to purchase fuel early in the year if there is some indication that the retail price in world markets were to increase.

It reviews the early purchase in the past to pre-purchase diesel and gasoline, but it's something that we monitor very closely particular when it comes to diesel fuels because the demand for diesel in the winter months are much higher; that tends to affect the price in the world market.

Whereas in the summer months, the demand of diesel lessens so it is typically lower during the summer months. There are no political or economic activities.

Basically, we work with the fuel supply contractor to determine some of the optimal times to purchase those products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Did we purchase fuel at a low price this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this fiscal year, the only product that we purchase on the early purchase was about 22,000 litres of gasoline. Typically, there are two reasons why we do that.

The first reason is that typically there is our demand for gasoline during the summer months as opposed to the winter months. The other issue is that we had to buy a winter-grade gasoline product for Nunavut, and the only time we can buy that through the refineries during the late winter or early spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Greene. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do you ensure that the gasoline we are buying is the right kind? In the past we have had some problems with gas; we had skidoo problems, car problems...it was blamed on the gas.

I am wondering what kinds of methods do you have in place that when you purchase that it's the right type and it is good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My deputy minister and I have a gentlemen's agreement that any items related to fuel, he will respond because he's the expert. So if I may defer it to Mr. Green again. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the issue that we had in 2001-02 with the gasoline, at that time, the Government of Nunavut worked with the Alberta Research Council to develop more stringent specifications for the gasoline in Nunavut communities.

Basically, there is an inspection process that we follow to sample the fuel from the time that we purchase it by the time it is in temporary storage and by the time it is on the vessel and by the time it gets discharged in the community and into the tank. So there is a very rigorous process that we follow to make sure that this fuel remains at the government's specifications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I was trying to find the right wording and it's quality control.

Since you have implemented those kinds of investigations at different times, have you found that at any time when you were doing the testing that you had to

not carry through with the purchase because it was not to the quality that we were looking for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may defer to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I will defer to Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, I'm not aware of any issues with the gasoline products that we purchase that had to be sent back to the supplier since we brought in those new quality control procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just moving on, well, not really moving on, but to my next line of questions, you say that we remain comparable or lower than other Canadian jurisdictions. How long do you expect this to last in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again if I may. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We won't know until the end of this year's resupply whether the changes in costs from the resupply year will have any impact on the existing product and transportation. We know that the transportation cost is a bit stable, but until we start buying the fuel in the world markets, if there are any changes in the political situation... (inaudible)... it could impact the supply cost.

Based on our estimates at this point in time, we are not forecasting any changes in the retail price for us, but that could change by the time we get to the end of the resupply when we do our analysis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation ends) General comments. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good news to hear. Hopefully it will remain low.

Just going on, I would like to move on to water licensing and compliance. As we know, a lot of our communities are not in compliance with their water licences and I wonder what the department is doing to support these municipalities. What are the next steps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) If I'm correct, I think Ms. Angnakak is referring to page 4 of your opening comments. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in

regard to her question. We're working with all the communities of Nunavut, not all are in compliance with the conditions but not all are in compliance with of these licenses. So therefore, we're working with those communities at this time to make sure that they comply with the federal conditions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see here on page six of your opening comments you talk about working on improving core municipal services, such waste water and solid waste. I see that you also talk about working with Dalhousie University on waste treatment systems.

What other kinds of improvements are you speaking of here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Waste water and solid waste it's hard to get a terminology in Inuktitut in regard to waste water. We are working in partnership with Dalhousie University and we did research that may impact performance of the treatment systems in the community with their waste water so that it will not have a negative impact on our environment. They did a study on that.

At this time we're now reviewing the results of the study with the recommendations. We'll start working with the communities to make sure that

the waste water system is working.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: On the same question, can you talk about improving municipal services with water, because I know for example, in Grise Fiord I have heard that the water is at a very low level. Can you give me some examples of how the department is working with municipalities in dealing with water?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have my deputy minister respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the primary water sources for municipalities, CGS has undertaken a study of all environmental, both primary and secondary water sources. The primary focus of this study was to ensure that if we had issues or low water levels for the primary source of water, that we would have a secondary source that we can use, in terms of if there is a situation where the primary source was running low.

This study is near completion. What it basically does is gives us a list of the quantity and the depth of the water in each community, plus where a secondary source of water would be available if we needed to address water in communities.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going on, you talk about an energy management pilot project. Can you elaborate on what this means?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The energy management initiatives were started in 2007. We did a study on buildings that are being used by the government in Iqaluit. The study was for water and power use in the community. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thank you for that answer. You collected that first year data. How did it turn into cost savings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were various studies done. The future studies will move on to communities outside of Iqaluit.

In regard to the member's question, I personally, cannot respond to her question in detail at this time. If I can ask my deputy minister to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the retrofit that we did with the GN buildings in Iqaluit, we had an arrangement with a southern contractor that would come in and do the retrofit to all of our buildings to look at options to reduce the costs of energy like shutting off all lights overnight or full consumption monitoring.

The agreement with vendors is for 10 years. We have a 10-year arrangement so that all the cost savings we achieve will go back to offset the investment that is put in place to reduce the energy savings. Based on our current analysis, we should be able to recover the full cost of this investment and reducing the consumption with the building very a 10-year period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to go on to talk about communications. I am wondering if the GN is thinking about updating the version of cell phones or internet, seeing that now we have faster internet and cell options available here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a government I think we use a lot of internet services and telephones in Nunavut. We are watching to make sure that we get the best internet services to see if there are any new internet services that we can utilize. If you want to get some more information, I will have to

pass the question on to my deputy minister to elaborate, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the upgrades in the cell phone services within Iqaluit; 3G is now available but the existing signals within the community is not very strong in all parts of the city. There is an arrangement with Bell Canada that they're putting in a new tower in the fall of this year. Once that new tower is installed then the department will look at upgrading from the existing cell phone devices to 3G network phones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good news to hear. I have one more question, that's it, after this for opening comments. When we talk about the joint emergency preparedness program where you lost the funding from the federal government you say that you're actively looking at other sources of revenue.

Can you elaborate a little bit on what you've done so far in finding funding to replace this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in discussion with the federal government with respect to getting more money from the federal government. As the GN, what we do is

we use our funding with respect to emergency funding because some of the money that we used to receive is only half. We have just half of the money that we used to have so we're talking with the federal government to see whether they can give us more money.

Chairman: General comments. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where do I start here? On page 4 of your opening comments, if the Chairman will allow, I'd like to take it a little deeper than the just the AWG funding that the Department of Community and Government Services has provided.

I've had a couple organizations approach me in the last few months where they've identified a gap in funding for recreation programs. The application format, from the way I've been led to understand, is that the fiscal year cut-off of April 1 creates a challenge for people to apply for funding in a new fiscal year. We've just gone over the fiscal year and this is how it came to my attention.

It appears as if there's a gap in the funding application process. Would you be able to correct me or elaborate on if the department can take some remediation factors to allow proponents to apply for funding that may have crossover funding from one fiscal year to another? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtoke (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For proper clarification, exactly how that is, I will

get my deputy minister to respond to the question through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. There is an application based-funding program for small recreations for municipalities. If those funds are not spent, because they're O&M dollars, if they're not spent before the end of the fiscal year, those funds are lapsed.

I've been in discussion with our sports and recreation branch and what we're looking at is exploring the option if there's some way that instead of application-based funding if we could look at, similar to the mobile-block funding, is looking at some sort of block funding arrangement where we would get a contribution to all municipalities for minor recreation. So that's something that we're exploring in our future business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for those comments. Just to take my example a little bit further, if there's an organization that's looking at putting a sporting event together that is a weeklong sporting event, if it starts on March 28, for example, and carries into April 3, it appears as if there's a gap even at that level. Will that also be taken into consideration when you're reviewing this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) I can give one short
answer, yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I thank the minister for that response.
I'm going to switch gears to going to
page 5. At the very last paragraph, it
talks about the "development of a
regulatory framework for the Nunavut
Building Code Act." I understand that
some preliminary work is being done
right now and that it will be completed
by the end of the fiscal year. Will this
panel be expecting some increased PYs
as far as building inspectors to deal with
the Nunavut *Building Code Act*? Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Yes, this will result in
looking for PYs in future years. Thank
you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I thank the minister for that response.
Also in that paragraph, it talks about the
Building Advisory Committee that was
established and recently held its
inaugural meeting. Is that advisory
committee made up of staff members or
are there members of the public included

on that committee? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Building
Advisory Committee comes from the
government departments and some
outside of the government departments.
Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Would he be able to advise this
committee on how many members are
currently a part of the Building Advisory
Committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Just
to remind the people at the witness table,
if you need to confer, that's fine; just
make sure that if you don't want us to
hear what you're saying, just mute your
microphone. (interpretation) Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток: My apologies,
Mr. Chairman. I'm not very good at
looking at colour-coded stuff here.
However, there are 13 members of this
advisory committee and it's a mixture of
both members from the government and
also the public. (interpretation) Thank
you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Would you indulge me with the
breakdown? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you. I'm not sure whether the member wants actual names of these people or what positions they may be in at this point. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think the member is indicating that he doesn't necessarily want the names; just a general breakdown of where the members are from, if I'm correct. Yes, apparently I am. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe if I give you what these people do. That will give you an indication of where they're from. There is an architect and an engineer, representatives from the building officials office, representatives from the Fire Marshall's office, representatives from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, a representative from NTI, a representative from the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society, and another one from a private developer, a representative nominated by the Nunavut/NWT Construction Association, a representative nominated by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and three other additional members that a minister may consider as appropriate for this membership. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister for that information. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. So

there are still a couple of positions to be filled.

On page H-6, half way down, there are two short paragraphs that, to me, I think are linked. It talks about the Property and Asset Management Division is pursuing process improvements on the preventative maintenance and life cycle renewal initiatives. It's also talking about undertaking a program review to update the maintenance management standards to examine gaps in existing delivery standards.

Would you be able to give this committee some examples of some of the gaps that are identified that you are looking to review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, if I may get one minute consultation here with my staff? Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the gaps that we're trying to identify is the staffing maintainers that we require to do the maintenance work within the communities. Since 1999, there has been a significant growth in the number of GN facilities across the territory. There haven't been any changes to the staffing levels to address those increased maintenance. At the same time, there has been no funding

other than for utilities that's been provided to CGS for preventative maintenance. There certainly have been no monies allocated for life cycle renewal.

So, basically, we wanted to undertake this review to determine what funding requirements that would be required to ensure that we carried the preventative maintenance, as the same time to look at life cycle renewal option so that we can extend the useful life of our facilities. At the same time we're looking at what the human resources that would be required to give us the capacity to be able to undertake the preventative maintenance requirements across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You deputy minister has just stated that there has been very little, if any, maintenance dollars allocated in the budget. How are you currently taking preventative maintenance initiatives so that we don't have larger expenditures needed down the road on infrastructure failing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this to my deputy, Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services currently has about 16 million dollars in its operation budget for preventative maintenance across the territory. Currently we use this funding to address

any issues that come up for preventative maintenance and do our regular inspections as required to ensure that some of the building components are operating as they should be.

One of the things that we struggle with is the deferred maintenance. Because we don't have the proper life-cycle renewal costs, usually what happens is that maintenance to buildings get deferred and as a result the buildings do not typically last to their life-cycle requirements that it should be.

This is part of a gap that we're looking at in the industry standards, to see what's required to meet the current preventative maintenance requirements and also at the same time to look at what's required in life-cycle maintenance to maintain those buildings so that they can last to their useful life.

Once we get this report done then we can take a look at bringing forward requests for funding in the future business fund process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on page 6 on the very bottom, I know you've already spoken a little bit to the energy management pilot project here in Iqaluit and I understand that it's more on a commercial scale that you guys deal with. But are there any cross-over energy management practices that could be shared with your colleague, the Minister of Housing, to help alleviate some of the high costs of housing utility costs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What you're talking about, we can do that.
(interpretation ends) Yes, we can work with the Housing Corporation.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. General comments. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not referring to any numbers but I would like to fully understand, like you were talking about the reservoirs and water. Some communities don't have good water. Some of them have artificial lakes that are called reservoirs. The high arctic communities are in an impossible situation right now. They don't have a lake that they can rely on for water. I was told by them that the reservoir is melting; I guess the permafrost under it is melting. The high arctic people in Grise Fiord are very concerned about this.

I asked them, is there a possible alternate spot? They said, "Yes. There is a river or stream nearby that could be utilized" but it obviously would be very expensive to start using that. They said they can wait for this to be done but they are very worried about the melting permafrost under the reservoir.

Have you looked into that community? It looks like they will no longer have any water available for them in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on that matter right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. Mr. Shooyook, you have a supplementary? Wait a moment, Mr. Shooyook. You must turn your microphone on. Can you hear me now?

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you for the good response. I understand that it's being worked on. I understand, so the matter stops here.

However, I would like to move to another subject: cellphones. I was given a cellphone when I became an MLA. We have no cellphone service in our community. We have nothing that will make it work. It works when I'm in Iqaluit, but then I'm home for six months at a time and it's just like an object that I can look at and it's not really convenient. People see me and they say, "Wow! You've got a cellphone." However, once I get into my community, it doesn't work anymore.

When will our community receive cellular phone services so that the cellphones work there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question from my colleague. The government has nothing to do with the operation of cellphones. They are

handled by phone companies and other companies. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurток. Not questions, but general comments. (interpretation ends) General comments. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The first question I have has to do with the middle of page 3, the Municipal Funding Program. Let's say, for example, there is a sudden population boom in Baker Lake because of a mine opening nearby. That's my first question.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets get operating funds and they have a transportation budget that they can use during the year. When there's mining happening near Baker Lake, the municipality is still doing the same thing. The funds that they used to get before the mine came are still the same. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Still on the same page, at the bottom of page 3, what assets are you referring to here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$45,550,000 that I mentioned is the total contribution that we gave out to the municipalities for their operations. There is a slight increase from last year so that the hamlets, if they've got a new office building or new trucks, their transportation budgets or operation budgets were, they need to get increased operation budgets as well. That's why our proposed funding is a little bit bigger than last year.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for his response. On the same page, page 3 in the top area I understand the way it's written, but my question is about petroleum products.

There are requests for proposals for competitions that come out to the communities to see who will have the contract. Do these contractors end up working for the government or are they contracted out?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Maybe once we get into the page by page review you will get your answer. However, if the minister wants to answer, Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand your question correctly, the petroleum product contracts, the transportation of petroleum products are done by our contractors. We have various contractors in Nunavut where individual businesses or co-ops have the contracts. The distribution is handled by

the contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing my question and I'd like to thank the minister for responding to my question properly. On page 7, at the very bottom, regarding the search and rescue and it goes onto the last page, this effects all of Nunavut whenever a search needs to happen in our communities it's because of the cold temperatures that's one of the factors.

However, the search and rescue organizations in our communities, I'll use Baker Lake as an example. I'm quite familiar with it. The search and rescue committees don't even have an office space. Can the search and rescue organizations be helped in the communities?

Chairman: Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, when I became the minister of my department we instituted a meeting amongst ourselves working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the hamlet councils and NTI, looking at how issues relating to the search and rescue in terms of offices or supplies, how they could be addressed.

We are beginning to move forward on discussing these things.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ugyuk. Please be aware that we

are trying to elicit general comments and when we go page by page these specific things could be dealt with. I would appreciate if we could try and get to the way we're supposed to do it. If you think you need to ask a question, then I suppose I could provide you with a lot of leeway. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What you said is quite understandable. Thank you for that. In relation to the search and rescue, I have another question. Are you looking at this from a global perspective, in terms of looking at all of Nunavut? Whether they could have regional conferences, like one in the Kitikmeot, the Kivalliq, and then for the Baffin? (interpretation ends) Thank you?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Thank you for being understanding. I know that I like asking a lot of questions, too. I needed to be reminded very now and then while some else is on the chair. If you would not mind providing some kind of answer in relation to his question, we can deal with that. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can deal with that and we will be addressing it. We will be looking at a number of ways to move forward on it. However, as I stated earlier, we want to do more work in the area of emergency measures and search and rescue. However, we, as the GN, are the only party that is providing money. Money is an issue in terms of slowing things down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, hon. minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to search and rescue, I know that it was introduced this year alone. It's a new initiative which is 200 hours tax exemption for people that have been involved in search and rescue. As we know, people that are assisting in search and rescue needs someone to monitor each and every individual while they're out searching. Is there future consideration for some kind of database system to assist search and rescue organizations across Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever a search for a lost person is to be initiated, my department is the specific organization that is responsible for the emergency measures groups. We maintain the surveillance of the progress in terms of hours that are utilized. So they are usually quite simple to follow. It's quite easy to be able to incorporated that into the tax exemption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening remarks, again in relation to search and rescue as these are important issues, we are also now able to see something in print that promises to address this issue by the government. Lastly, I use SPOT devices myself that use batteries. Naturally, anything that runs on batteries will eventually die off. The person may have this kind of useful

device. However, once it runs out of batteries, the device goes dead.

Inuit knowledge could also be used for a person to survive and so it's not just these devices that would save people anymore and so I would be asking more about this issue when we go page by page. However, I would like to indicate that Inuit can also have pretty common knowledge on how to survive and return home. This is just a statement, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. General comments. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague touched up on this subject on page 3 on the new municipal funding program. It states that the program formula provides transparency on how department's fund municipalities.

I do not want a breakdown on the whole formula, but is it funded partially by per capita base? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to defer that answer to our director of finance, Mr. Moyo.

Mr. Moyo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The municipal funding program is not based on per capita basis. It is based on the value and number of infrastructure assets that are in place in each community.

Community and Government Services revised this formula beginning April 5, 2013, and we committed to reviewing it every three years. So, at the end of 2015, we will be reviewing it again to make sure that we provide adequate funding to municipalities as they need it.

The review will also include whether or not there has to be a per capita element built into it to care for the different populations in each communities, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Moyo. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity; the more assets the municipality has, the more funding it gets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I know the reason, I would like our finance person to reply to that, if possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Moyo.

Mr. Moyo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To be specific, the funding formula is really to fund municipalities for the operating and maintenance costs, particularly utilities, power, water, wastewater, maintenance costs, and salaries and wages.

To answer the member's question, yes, the more assets and the more maintenance is required on those assets,

the more funding a municipality will get. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to use the community of Arviat as an example for further clarification. Arviat is rapidly growing, infrastructure is needed, and my understanding now is you are funding it at the current needs.

If the needs increase, is there a mechanism to increase the formula so that the community gets adequate funding to provide the needs towards the people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The growth of the municipalities is always (interpretation ends) If I may switch to English. All of the assets and the level of funding are taken into consideration during our capital planning process. If there's increased infrastructure in a community or a decrease in the infrastructure in the community, appropriate funding will be applied. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the clear response. On a different matter, you can rule me if I'm out of order on this or not, Mr. Chairman. My colleague asked about search and rescue. In your statement, you said you're working hard

to improve search and rescue response programs.

As the minister is aware, Arviat is flat. It's a really flat place. Cell phone availability would be greatly enhanced with a large tower. I know that the hamlet has been talking and working with NorthwesTel to get better range because most of the searches happen within a 60-kilometre area of the town.

If cell phones were available during a search, as opposed to satellite phones, there are a lot more cellphones available compared to satellite phones.

Is the minister having any talks with the hamlet or cell phone providers to provide such a service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I will allow that question. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been having discussions; however, I want the hon. member to understand therefore I would like my deputy minister to provide an answer.

Chairman: I will allow that, too. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services has had ongoing discussions with the cell phone providers to look at types of towers that would be required, the cost for those towers and to look at the cell-phone range to see if that would be a cost-effective approach to try and reduce the cost of search and rescue if cell phones were available within a certain ratio.

We've had those discussions with providers and we'll continue to have those discussions and see if that's an option that, as the government, we want to pursue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation): Moving onto page J-4. We're on Community and Government Services. Departmental Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,491,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page J-5. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions along the same line as the questions Mr. Savikataaq was asking concerning the municipal funding program. It shows a slight increase in the amount going to municipalities. I am wondering when you implemented this program; did you find that all of the municipalities were under funded? Or if some of them were over funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation) Just to remind members, if you have any questions on page J-5, please raise your hand ahead of time. Hon. Minister, you can respond now.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A short answer to that question is there are some that are under funded, and there are some that are over funded. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where there are communities that were over funded in the past, what action was taken in order to correct the amount of funding that they were receiving? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may defer that response to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the review was completed, there were a number of communities that were over funded. The decision at the time when this funding formula was approved, we would red circle any communities that were over-funded and would not see an increase in their rates until they moved into a deficit funding arrangement. Any community that was under-funded did see an increase to bring them up with the levels of revenue that was indicated in the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In communities where you give an increase to the amount of revenue that they would receive, say for example, this year with the price of fuel going up, was that taken into consideration for this year's amount of

funding that was being provided to communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, if I may.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did not adjust the municipal funding formula this year for the increase in fuel costs for municipalities because that the last time that the fuel prices were decreased, there was no downward adjustments to the municipalities' budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question on a different topic. Your department's proposed budget for community transfer initiatives is decreasing from \$2.083 million down to \$1.37 million. What accounts for this decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) if I may, I would like to ask my director of finance.

Chairman: Mr. Moyo.

Mr. Moyo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a decrease of \$713,000. That is attributable to two communities; Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung. They gave up

their CMA funding, or community transfer initiative funding. CGS has taken those responsibilities and by doing so, adopted four TUIs. So that program is being administered by CGS directly, presently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Moyo. Questions on page J-5? (interpretation) Questions? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regard to community [sustainability] plans. Which communities have up-to-date community [sustainability] plans and which don't? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As far as my department is concerned, all the communities have the plans in place. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the answer. In regard to community development, how often does CGS visit hamlets and their communities to develop capacity and what methods are used to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak)(interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're now

starting to deal with our staff frequenting the communities. (interpretation ends) I have been in discussions with my department that we would like to see more of our staff visiting the municipalities so that they can provide support and advice to our municipal governments. I am expecting that you will see my department staff out there more often. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the answer, but it makes me wonder what kind of involvement you've had in the past. If this is a new thing, what have you done in the past to help communities operate their services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, I'll defer that answer to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of our contact with communities in terms of consultation after they have identified their needs has been through the sustainability coordinator that CGS recruited. The sustainability coordinator's responsibility is to work with the municipalities to see what their priorities are under their integrated sustainability plans and, at the same time, to work municipalities to see what their operating requirements are as well.

Over the past year, I personally have visited a number of municipalities and council meetings myself, and the general consensus that I got from the municipalities is that CGS presence in those communities was not appropriate. We needed to spend more time in there.

What I have done this year with our Community Support Branch is request to them that they must visit the communities at least twice a year to meet with councils so that we understand what their concerns are and so that we can appropriately address those concerns. Going forward, we certainly be having a greater presence in our communities compared to prior years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In keeping with that line of thought, we have often heard that municipalities get into huge deficits and I have often wondered how they get to that point before anybody really does anything about it. Do you think that having more visitations to communities and that could address some of those challenges that municipalities face? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some municipalities get into deficit situations at times due to lack of financial management capabilities. As we stated earlier on, starting now, we will be visiting the communities more frequently to get a clearer understanding if they're operating within their means.

(interpretation ends) There are a variety of factors that impact on the financial situations of a lot of the municipalities. In some cases, it's just bad accounting. In other cases maybe there was incompetence at the community-level. To a large extent, as a department, we want to correct all of these things. We will be working more closely with the municipalities to deal with these issues. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many municipalities are in a deficit position right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What range is there in the amount of deficit? I don't want specific, but what is the general range of the deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It ranges anywhere from 250,000 to 2,000,000. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: When you get a municipality that's at a deficit of \$2 million, what immediate steps does Community and Government Services take to help that municipality gain control over the escalating deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, I'll defer that answer to Mr. Green.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In situations where we find that municipalities are into a deficit we do send in our monitoring and evaluation staff whom provide oversight on reviewing the municipal financial statements and basically we work with the hamlet to develop a debt recovery plan. We provide support so that they can recover those deficits over a period of approximately three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I'm going on now to technical professional studies program. It's interesting to see that you have a bursary and I'm wondering how do you promote or advertise that you have a bursary and how does one apply for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Chairman, if I may, I'll have Mr. Moyo respond to that.

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

Mr. Moyo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we have bursary program, a technical studies program, with about \$80,000 every year and we advertise it twice a year depending on whether there's still money in the pot. Generally, twice a year in two northern newspapers to make sure that we make it as publicly available as possible.

In addition to that, our staff also communicates with colleges, the Nunavut Arctic College, to make sure that that program in particular is available to those attending within Nunavut, as well as high schools for final year students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Moyo. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if you usually expend all the money there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes we do.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going on. Your senior citizen and disabled persons tax relief,

where you provide tax relief for senior citizens and disabled persons residing within the municipal tax authorities. How many senior citizens apply for this program and how many disabled people apply for this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately, we don't have the stats with the information on this. However, we can get that information for you. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you elaborate a little on how this program works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I may, I will defer to Mr. Green. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, we typically get requests from individuals that seek support from the department to assist them with their municipal taxes, then, basically, we review the program. If they're eligible, then we pay for the municipal taxes on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: The Nunavut Leadership Forum funding where you facilitate community leadership meetings. Can you elaborate on what these meetings entail? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This involves newly elected majors and council members. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Consumer Affairs. It says here that you provide consumer protection services, lottery and business licenses. Can you give us an example of how these funds would be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll defer to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$850,000 is used to provide training initiatives to the local fire departments, which is partially funded through the Municipal Training Organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to municipal funding policy the amounts haven't changed very much since last year. I am wondering if you feel that the amounts are adequate to meet the needs of municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer the question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly I want to apologize to the member about the response that I gave to her for the Community Asset Protection Program. Actually, this \$850,000 is used to help support the NAMIX insurance program. It's an annual contribution that the GN provides back to NAMIX to assist municipalities in that insurance program.

With respect to the municipal funding policy, the forced growth note that's identified in there was based on the review that was done in 2012. They looked at the consumer price index and they determined what the funding requirements would be over a three-year period.

As we mentioned earlier, this program will become under review prior to one year before it expires. Our intent is to

take a look at that formula to make sure that we look at it from a sustainability point of view. It not only will be looking at providing funding to municipalities for their overall general operations within the community, but it will also be looking at the lifecycle requirements to maintain their buildings going forward.

Moving forward, we will be doing a very comprehensive review of this policy again because there have been some concerns raised that the existing formula is not adequate to meet the program needs of the municipalities. Given that we've had a number of community deficits this time, it probably triggers a point that we would need to re-examine that formula to make sure that we're working towards sustainable communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Green. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that come to mind when I see the Municipal Funding Policy is, for example, the water rates they charge public housing units because they charge public housing units commercial rates, which, of course, makes the O&M for public housing units pretty high. I'm wondering: what kind of dialogue have you had with municipalities regarding this issue, as an example? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a proper response to the question, I would like my deputy minister to respond.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been in discussions with the Nunavut Housing Corporation because they raised concerns about the high cost of water for public housing. It has to be noted that the highest consumption of water within the territory is for the public houses.

Having said that, we have agreed that, some time in this new fiscal year, we would take a look at the water and waste funding program to look at a long-term sustainability plan. We will be doing a review of the subsidy program for all of our communities to determine what would be fair to the different consumers who pay for the user costs for this service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about community transfer initiatives, the transfer of responsibilities, functions, and stuff like that, I guess I was under the impression that the departments also have their own funding agreements with municipalities. Is this correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Yes, we do have agreements with the municipalities. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to get clarification. Do the other departments other than CGS also have their own funding agreements within the GN? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I'll ask if you could have Mr. Green respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the community transfer initiative does take in the maintenance and some programs that the municipalities do run on behalf of some of the other GN departments. There are some outreach services they provide from Justice and Health and Social Services and other minor programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In speaking about the transfer initiatives, what have you found to be the biggest challenge for communities and municipalities to do on the government's behalf? What kind of service...? More and more municipalities are turning services back to the government that they originally did on their behalf. I'm just wondering if you can elaborate a little bit about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Basically it has to do with capacity and being able to get the job done. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Going to something totally different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that the department was heavily involved with the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. Can you tell us how much money was spent on the Arctic Winter Games and how many Nunavummiut participated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We don't have that information right up front, but we will get it for the member. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I may, can you make copies for all members? Appreciated. Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last question on J-5. I see that part of the work is going to be to "Prepare and develop a work plan for the Land Referendum..." Will the department have the capacity and support to carry out the responsibilities to actually implement this referendum? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Yes, we do and we will. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sammurtok. Moving right along. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my colleague covered most of the questions I was going to ask. I would like to take a little step further from the Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Tax Relief. Is it my understanding that it's just within the municipal tax authorities, not within the city of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes, apparently that is correct. Continue.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see any other programs to deal with senior citizens and disabled people here in Iqaluit, yet there are still people who do have property tax commitments with the City of Iqaluit. Is there funding for a city program for tax relief? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you're willing to give us a bit of time, we can get that information for you.

Chairman: Minister Sammurtok, if we give you how much time? One minute or two minutes or a couple of days? Are you suggesting you're going to get back to the member with that information? Minister Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we will get back to the member with the information.

Chairman: Thank you for the clarification and we shall have that information. Continue, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on the next page of the business plan under the Grant in Lieu of Taxes, it talks about "fair compensation to tax-based municipal governments for municipal services provided to the GN." As Iqaluit is the only tax-based municipality in Nunavut, I'm assuming that all that funding goes to the City of Iqaluit.

I noted with some interest that it increased by about \$400,000 a couple of years ago. The city itself and the infrastructure that has been built in the city of Iqaluit over the past number of years have been quite substantial.

I also noted with interest that there is no increased funding proposed in ongoing fiscal years. Is that something that is going to be reviewed on an as-used basis or can the minister maybe give me a little education on how that's calculated and how that's going to be calculated ongoing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I'll defer that question, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, to my deputy minister.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grant in lieu of taxes is something that the City of Iqaluit, if they feel that there is an increase in the assets within the territory and that their mill rate goes up, typically, the City of Iqaluit would send a request to Community and Government Services for an increase in the grant in lieu of taxes, which in turn, we would bring it forward for consideration in our business plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just assume that the city will be forwarding their latest mill rate increase to you guys quite shortly.

Within the Sport and Recreation Administration, I noted that there are 12 PYs. In the priorities for 2015-16 under this category, of which there are a total of 56 PYs, there are three priorities listed and two of them are preparing teams for the Western Canada Summer Games and the Arctic Winter Games. There is one other priority listed as implementing a "strategic plan for addressing maintenance of community and government assets."

Is that what the other 42 PYs are going to be doing next year? Are there any other priorities that the department has identified that they're going to be working on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation):
Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I
may, I'll defer that question to Mr.
Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
For the upcoming new fiscal year and
this current fiscal year, we're looking for
\$350,000 and that has to do with the cost
of travel to send individuals to the North
American Indigenous Games. In the
future years, we're looking at an
increase of approximately \$1 million to
prepare teams for the 2015 Canada
Winter Games in Prince George, British
Columbia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I guess my humour is a little drier than I
thought it was. I noted that there are only
three priorities listed in the fiscal year
2015-16 and two of them are associated
with sport and recreation and only one
listed in other aspects of the Community
Support Services, yet there are a number
of different categories where there could
be work done in there.

I guess the question I'm asking is the
priorities listed for 2015-16 seem a little
thin. Could the minister maybe let me
know if there is anything else that he is
planning on adding to that priority list?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) In addition to the
games that the deputy minister
mentioned earlier, we have some other
items. However, just so that my
department is correct in responding, I'll
defer to Mr. Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
For 2014-15, the member is quite right
that we do have a large number of
initiatives that we are undertaking.
We're now in the process of developing
our three-year business plans for 2014-
15 to 2014-18, and I suspect that when
we submit those future business plans,
you will see that some of those priorities
will be expanded on as we look at other
initiatives within the department. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes (interpretation): That's it.

Chairman: My apologies, Mr. Hickes.
Moving right along. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
I'll be asking questions on the business
plan. The first question that I have is on
page 149, (interpretation ends) Technical
Professional Studies Program. Is that
within just the government department
or is that also part of the hamlet offices
within the communities? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) if you can give us just a few seconds here, we're trying to find 149.

Mamianaq, my apologies. If I may, I'll defer the response to the deputy minister.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the minister to repeat the question again because my page 149 shows Petroleum Products, which is under a different line than what we're looking at right now.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. I'm not quite sure. I think you called Mr. Mikkungwak the minister. Just a friendly reminder that the minister is sitting beside you. Mr. Mikkungwak, please.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was nice to get a brief promotion.

>>*Laughter*

My question is on the business plan, page 149, and the particular thing that I'm focusing on is the Technical Professional Studies Program. I'll elaborate more on my question.

Seeing that this Technical Professional Studies Program, earlier I asked if that's focused at just the government positions or if some of it reflects the hamlet positions, considering the fact that when we look at firefighting, a majority of them are within the hamlets. In addition to that, in Land Administration, you have government land administration,

some of which are hamlet also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) It has been a long day for a lot of us, so we should allow ourselves little slip-ups here and there. Minister Sammurток.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll defer the question to the deputy minister.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, most of the funding has been spent recruiting our IT specialists within Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the response. On the same page, just below that, (interpretation ends) Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Tax Relief, (interpretation) this question may have already been asked, but my first question is: at what age can seniors qualify for this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you're 65 and over.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In other words, you

and I are not eligible. (interpretation)
Mr. Mikkungwak, go ahead.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
thank the minister for his response. Also
on that item, do senior citizens or
disabled persons require certain
documentation in order to apply for this
funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation):
Yes, if they have identification to prove
that they are senior citizens or disabled
persons, it would be sufficient.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
thank the minister. I would appreciate it
if the minister could elaborate on that.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: I'm not sure
whether this is the answer you are
looking for. However, it's based on
disposable income. *Qujannamiik*, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much. It states here,
(interpretation ends) "Provides tax relief
for senior citizens and disabled persons
residing within municipal tax
authorities." So does this only reflect

private homeowners? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Yes, it does.
Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
thank the minister for his response. On
page 150 of the business plan,
(interpretation ends) Mobile Equipment
Block Funding, \$2,513,000,
(interpretation) I would like to know
what this funding is used for. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money
is used by communities to subsidize the
cost of mobile equipment lifecycle
planning and maintenance. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
thank the minister for his response. I
have another question regarding heavy
equipment, such as bulldozers and
graders. There are different pieces of
equipment used in the summer. Is this
funding for that? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may, I'll defer the question to Mr. Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the mobile block funding is exactly what the member suggested. It's an annual contribution that the department provides the communities to finance and purchase their mobile block funding like dozers, backhoes, and those types of equipment. The water and wastewater vehicles are funded through their water and waste management programs, but those are pretty much all the types of mobile equipment that are used for snow clearing, grading roads, and that sort of equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. There are many communities and as communities, we all wish to be operating as safely as possible. Is this funding sufficient to provide everything for the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We provide annual funding to communities of \$104,670. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community Support Services, (interpretation) looking at this overall, such as responsibilities and reading what they do, ever since I became an MLA, I kept saying that the community of Baker Lake was impacted by the opening of the mine causing a tremendous increase in the number of people who come through our community. That being the case, how could Baker Lake be provided more assistance to the municipality due to its increased growth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may again defer that question to Mr. Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All municipalities receive funding for their operating and maintenance which covers the cost of operating vehicles, sealift supplies, employees' wages and benefits funded through the municipal funding formula. That was based on the review that was done in 2012 to determine what funding requirements would be required to assist the municipalities to cover their operating costs outside of any revenues that they get from user fees, such as the water and waste management programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Green for the response. It hits my question exactly. It's probably due to the increase in the population of our community that the use of water, for example, sewage, and the provision or collection of garbage has increased. Municipal service costs for the hamlet have increased as a result and road maintenance and everything else have increased as a result of population growth. Is this being taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have provided an answer before; I just forgot when. In looking at the increase of populations of our municipalities, they have been recognized every time their annual budgets are being looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sammurток. We are on page J-5. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the recent winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly, minister, you indicated that upcoming amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* would address such matters as cheque cashing fees, money transfer fees, and payday loans. Can the minister just give us an update on any progress, if

there has been any since then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still working on this issue. We are currently working on it and it is becoming developed. An answer to addressing the problem is being developed. We will be following how the other provinces in the nation are addressing the issue of the price-gougers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A totally different matter, your department's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "Finalize and begin implementation of the Office Space Strategy." It also indicates that community visits began in March 2014. Which communities will or did your department visit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to his first question, it is now going quite well and that will be resolved soon. As far as establishing in the communities are concerned, it's more to... . (interpretation ends) If I may switch languages here, we have decentralized communities. Our staff has gone to visit with all the decentralized communities and also, we have visited, in this case,

most of the communities in the Kivalliq and also some communities in the Kitikmeot as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How was it determined which communities were visited? If you didn't visit a community, how would you know if the office needs were adequate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We actually don't have criteria which community we visit first. If a community or hamlet invites us to come in, we will come and visit. An example was when the deputy minister and I visited Baker Lake at their invitation. We will now be doing regular visits to most of our communities throughout Nunavut. That is the direction that was given to our staff. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This community-specific, but in Arviat, I know they're short office space. The GLO, I believe, still has no office space there. In your strategy, you're going to out to look for office space to rent? Or build an office? Or you're not that far yet in the plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток: I'll defer that question to the deputy minister.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultant that they hired to prepare the office space strategy started visiting the communities. It is my understanding that the first visit would be to Igloolik and then they would be going to the Kivalliq communities, and then they would be going to the Kitikmeot communities.

We're expecting the draft report back from the consultants by the end of May. Once we get this report back, then it would determine for us what options are for us to address the office space needs in the communities, whether it be through leasing through the commercial sector, or is it more appropriate for the GN to look at constructing GN office space in those communities where we deem that there is a need for office space. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Green. (interpretation) We are on page J-5. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$76,149,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on. Page J-6. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of telephone systems, and the internet, and cells, we seem to have poor service a lot of the time. I would like to know, what is the

department doing to address some of these challenges? Are you working with Bell Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister, before you respond, I'd like to inform the members if you have any questions on this page please raise your hand ahead of time. Hon. Minister if you can respond.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Again, if I may defer that question to Mr. Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've expressed our concern with the service provided with respect to the quality of the cell phone service within the territory. We're continuing to work with the service providers to find means to improve the quality of the services within the communities.

With the installation of new towers, for example, here in Iqaluit and new towers going up in Rankin and Cambridge Bay we should start seeing, hopefully, we'll start rolling this across the territory. We should see an improvement in the quality of cell service moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, Mr. Green. In terms of your training program where you train beneficiaries for two-year co-op programs I'm wondering what the status is of this training program? How many Inuit have

gone through the program? If you can just update us on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we don't have the information in front of us. We can provide that information once we get it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I'll look forward to that information. Perhaps you can tell us in regard to this training, is this only in Iqaluit or is this type of training also provided in other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It's provided through Arctic College throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. In English we're on page J-6. We're moving on. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, on page 153, I have a question on the first one. On computer or word program, does this support all of the Nunavut students? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok The short answer is yes.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you. Since we're having a late sitting they've been trying to promote me. I'm very pleased with the Minister's response and I'm pleased to hear the response.

Also in regard to computer or word program, nowadays are young people are now using computers and they're very capable of using computers. Not just the young people, even elders are using computer nowadays.

Therefore my question is: since this is a computer award program, grants in-kind and if I understand it correctly, at the elementary school level and at the high school, do you provide that kind of computer or do you award that computer to the elementary and high schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Again, the short answer is yes.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. I am very pleased that the Department of Community and Government Services is now providing support to the students so that they can stay in school. Moving on to page 153 of your business plan under Property

Services, there's an increase from \$12,899,000 to \$15,987,000. Why is there an increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I may defer that question to Mr. Green.

Chairman: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase for the property services is for the commercial leases that expire and the GN renews those leases after their expiration period. Previously, we funded most of those increase cost in leases within our existing budgets, but given the constraints on our budgets, we suspect that the average increase in the commercial lease rates of about 28 percent. This increase in property management is for the renewal of commercial leases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for the response. Moving on to a different page, page 152 of your business plan, (interpretation ends) Telephone Systems (Voice and Video), (interpretation) that's a large sum of money. If you can elaborate further on the telephone systems (voice and video). Do they hold teleconferences all the time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reading the business plan, videoconferencing is very expensive, including telehealth and satellite networks, and they're included in here. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for stating that they are providing that service to Nunavutmiut. On page 154 of your business plan, it states under (interpretation ends) Priorities (2014-15), "Finalize and begin implementation of the Office Space Strategy." (interpretation) Where is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) I think that might have been asked by our colleague, Mr. Savikataaq, but if the minister wants to reply, I'll allow him. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not sure whether it was me who answered or whether it was Mr. Green who answered, but I'll give him the privilege, if I may.

Chairman: Your privilege, Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the past year or so, we have been getting a lot of requests from the municipalities regarding a shortfall in office space within the communities to house GN employees. In order to address this issue, we have hired a consultant to do an office space needs

assessment for all communities across the territory. We did Iqaluit there about a year ago and we have expanded it now to include all communities.

Once the study is completed in May 2014, it would give us an opportunity to look at what office space needs are in the communities and how best we can address that, whether it's through trying to find some commercial involvement in terms of commercial leasing or do we look at other options like GN owned office space within those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for allowing me to go ahead and ask my question. I'm asking this question in view of all of Nunavut and all communities in Nunavut. In our own communities, for example, in Baker Lake, there are government staff positions that are still vacant due to lack of office space. I urge the department to look into Baker Lake. I was wondering if you looked into that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): According to the deputy minister's response, I'll respond to you. We're going to be reviewing all the communities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page J-6. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Item 21. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mikkungwak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 30:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Friday, May 30, at 10:00
a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:52*

