



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 9

Monday, June 2, 2014

Pages 383 – 439

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Arviat South)

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
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(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)
Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Paul Quassa
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, June 2, 2014

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. 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): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Quassa.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Nunavut, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Ministers. Welcome, everyone. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 023 – 4(2):
Indspire Awards, James Eetoolook
and Sarah Arngna'naaq

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Indspire Awards, formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, was established to recognize indigenous professionals who demonstrate outstanding career

achievement. Special recognition is also given to three outstanding youth and a lifetime achiever.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to acknowledge two recipients of the 2014 Indspire Awards. The first one is Mr. James Eetoolook, the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, and the other one is Sarah Arngna'naaq, the Inuit Youth Award recipient.

James Eetoolook, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, has dedicated his life to serving the people of Nunavut. In his current position as vice-president of Nunavut Tunngavik, he works diligently to protect Inuit culture and heritage to ensure that the rights of all Inuit are protected. His numerous efforts have provided inspiration and service to other indigenous people across the north and throughout Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to recognize Sarah Arngna'naaq as the recipient of an Indspire Youth Award. Ms. Arngna'naaq completed her Juris Doctor at the University of Victoria in 2012 and was called to the bar in September of 2013. She has always had a passion for law and, more specifically, for laws related to Inuit. To date, much of her work has been in the development of new laws and regulations for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that we all stand today to honour the accomplishments of James Eetoolook and Sarah Arngna'naaq so those following in their footsteps will be inspired to fulfill their own great potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 024 – 4(2):
Nunavut Represented at National
Student Symposium**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and my fellow Igloolik residents. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to offer my congratulations along with everyone here to a young woman from Igloolik, Megan Ungalaq, who took the time to comment on the public education system in Nunavut. She compared our education system to southern Canada.

The Learning Partnership, a national charity dedicated to building partnerships to support, promote, and advance publicly funded education in Canada, asked over 600 students from all across Canada what's working well for them in Canada's public education system and how we can improve.

Mr. Speaker, Megan is a grade 12 student and she's just about to graduate. She knows that a good education will help Nunavummiut to reach their goals and dreams. She submitted an essay on the public education system in Nunavut to the Learning Partnership, which earned her the opportunity to attend the first ever national student symposium.

Megan stated that the students in Nunavut are taught the basics: English, math, science, language arts, and social studies. She was talking about the foundational subjects that students can build on. She also expressed an

appreciation of the arts curriculum. She also believes that the stronger teaching of Inuktitut can enhance our lives and promote our Inuit culture.

Megan commented that her high school education in Nunavut has given her the independence to move on to higher education, which is very good to hear. She aspires to become a teacher in Nunavut once she finishes her education. I would like to share my appreciation and pride of her with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 025 – 4(2): Study
of Homelessness in Nunavut**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to report to the Members of this House on the results of our recent study of homelessness in Nunavut. This study involved a count of the homeless across the territory.

A survey of individuals identifying themselves as homeless was also completed in three regional centres: Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. The survey gathered information related to the causes of homelessness in Nunavut and of the needs of those who are homeless.

Our count identified 98 people in Nunavut who were homeless, without housing of any kind, on the day of our count. In Iqaluit, this number included

57 people using emergency shelters and 15 people staying in places not meant to be housing. In other communities, 11 people were staying in shelters and 15 in places not meant to be housing.

In addition, 93 people completed surveys. This has produced a great deal of valuable information about how people find themselves to be homeless in Nunavut and what they need to find and maintain housing.

We know that people who are homeless need housing, but our survey demonstrates that there is a wide range of issues that lead people to become homeless. Unless these issues are addressed, maintaining housing is almost impossible for them.

Mr. Speaker, the results of our work on homelessness will be reviewed in community meetings that will take place in the coming weeks in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

When our study has been validated by the community, poverty reduction staff will prepare a report which will outline the findings of this valuable work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 067 – 4(2): Happy Birthday to Granddaughter

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all the people of Gjoa Haven and Members of the House. I

stand today to say a big "Happy birthday" to my granddaughter who just turned two on Friday. I know it's late, but I hope she's watching. I am told that every time I stand up and speak, the last time, she stood up to the TV and kissed me on TV.

>>*Laughter*

This is one of the reasons that I stand here today. With the help of all the MLAs, ministers, and the Hon. Premier, I hope that we can improve the lives of all Nunavummiut in supporting *Sivumut Abluqta*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 068 – 4(2): Approaches on Managing Waste

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our government and the people of Nunavut to work together to deal with the growing problem of waste and garbage in our northern communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have been impressed by the various creative and innovative approaches to dealing with different types of waste across our territory. I am in full support of recycling programs for collecting cans and bottles, composting programs for organic matter, paper and cardboard recycling, as well as projects to collect and ship out end-of-life vehicles and special programs to deal

with such items as tires, batteries, and waste oil.

Mr. Speaker, we can all do our part to meet the challenges of dealing with the garbage we produce. At the government level, both territorial and municipal, policies can be established to support and ensure the sustainability of our communities and the surrounding environment.

At the individual and family level, we can all help with waste management efforts by getting involved in local recycling and composting programs or by participating in programs to sort our household garbage more efficiently, something that is already done in many municipalities across North America.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of individuals, such as Jim Little in Iqaluit, who spearheaded a community-wide composting project, and Adam Malcolm, a high school science teacher in Gjoa Haven who has developed a plan to divert toxic materials from the local landfill by collecting and shipping them out in sea cans. Mr. Speaker, it is this kind of passion and drive towards addressing waste management that will truly make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the government can't do it alone and neither can individual residents of Nunavut. However, I believe that by working together towards a common goal, we can help protect our environment for the future. We need to listen to each other, to support fresh ideas from our youth, our environmentalists, and our dedicated community residents so that we can all enjoy our communities and the

surrounding land for a long time to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 069 – 4(2): 2014 Toonik Tyme

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the fact that Toonik Tyme ran very well this year, especially the snowmobile races from Iqaluit to Kimmirut. It was very interesting to watch. There were many participants taking part in the snowmobile racing.

I want to recognize the three winners. First was Albert Netser with 3 hours and 5 minutes, next was David Nowyook with 3 hours and 10 minutes, and third was Jerry Michael with 3 hours and 12 minutes. They drove to Kimmirut and back. The whole race ran very smoothly.

I would like to recognize Sean Noble, who was one of the youngest racers. He came across another racer who had an accident and stopped to help. He took him to the hospital in Iqaluit. I thank him for that.

Lastly, I wanted to thank all of the organizers who volunteered and made it run so smoothly in Iqaluit for the whole Toonik Tyme festival. Iqaluit groups, Kimmirut groups, and hamlet groups ran it very well.

For the 50th anniversary of Toonik Tyme next year, we hope that the race

from Iqaluit to Kimmirut and back will run as well as it did this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 070 – 4(2):
Taloyoak Spring Festival**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to let all of the members know that the people of Taloyoak will be participating in outdoor games. I want to make sure that the... .

People in Iqaluit are very kind to me and help me out while I'm away from my community. I would like to thank them all.

I want to tell the people of Taloyoak that school will be over soon and they will be having a good summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 071 – 4(2):
Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, the Premier made a Minister's Statement talking about the Sivuliqtiksat intern program that is currently undergoing in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I participated in this program early on in my career with the Government of Nunavut. Although I didn't technically graduate, as I had to leave the program to accept another employment opportunity with the government, I likely would not be here in this Assembly without the guidance, experience, and learning that I received directly from the late Mark Mackay and Brad Chambers, a supportive deputy minister, and the team that I worked with.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of connecting to a number of interns from all across this territory during my period of time with the intern program. I always look forward to seeing the continued success of this program and of the friends I made during my time with that program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice to the Premier that I will be asking questions at the appropriate time on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Question. Hon. Minister Ugyuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 042 – 4(2):
Food Price Survey**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A return to oral question asked by Joe Enook, 42 – 4(2), asked on May [26], 2014. The subject was "Food Price Survey."

“My question, Mr. Speaker, is: because there’s a high cost of living in Nunavut, what are you going to do after you complete a review of food prices in Nunavut?”

The answer:

The high cost of food in Nunavut continues to be an issue affecting all Nunavummiut. The Nunavut Food Price Survey, funded by the Department of Family Services and coordinated by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, is part of the Government of Nunavut’s efforts to improve food security. The results of the survey will not only provide an accurate measure of food costs, but will examine the differences in food prices in each community in Nunavut and to the rest of Canada.

The Government of Nunavut will use the survey report to assist in the decision-making, planning, implementation, and evaluation of various programs, including the Social Assistance Program, when reviewing current benefit rates and reform of the program. Further, the results of this survey will assist the Department of Finance when evaluating the northern allowance benefit rates and the Department of Health when examining the cost of healthy versus unhealthy foods and different food choices, to name a few.

The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics is currently analyzing the data and expects to release the report before the end of this session. The Department of Family Services will work closely with the bureau to determine ways in which the statistical information can be used to support our ongoing efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 088 – 4(2): Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member’s Statement a little while ago, I talked about the Sivuliqtiksat program that’s in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in the Premier’s Minister’s Statement from Friday, he talked about the two-day orientation to develop learning plans and to build networks to support each participant of this intern program.

Mr. Speaker, how many interns are there across the territory today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Over the years, I have noticed that there’s been interest in getting more Inuit into the workforce, and I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, there are eight positions at this current time that are in the internship. The internships last from one to three years and in various degrees. There are eight at this time and there are four new positions that have been approved for staffing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Office of the Auditor General's report on HR capacity tabled in 2010, it made some comments stating that the HR resources available are not sufficient to handle the workload, leading to the result that many participants may have not received all the support they needed to graduate the program.

Mr. Speaker, since moving responsibilities, what is being done to address this issue and make sure that all participants receive the support they need to advance their careers with the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, moving the HR position into Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, we have taken over the Inuit employment training and that's one of the issues that were identified in the past. Through the department, we are hoping that we can increase more Inuit training, more participation, and more completions of all these trainings that have been taking place in the past.

Since Sivulitiksavut internship started in 2004-05, there have been 23 interns who have graduated. The purpose of the internship is to develop Inuit into the managerial, professional, and specialized positions within the government. It's a sign that we are doing well. We have 23

who have moved on into the managerial and senior personnel positions since that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. Although I didn't graduate, I would like to think that I'm a success story of the program itself.

Mr. Speaker, one of the programs that I took when I was participating in that program was the Nunavut Advanced Management Program.

Mr. Speaker, since 2004-05 and until the public service annual report was tabled for 2012-13 just recently, it stated that there were 84 employees, of which 74 percent were beneficiaries who had graduated through the Nunavut Advanced Management Program. At the time of the report, 24 employees were enrolled, of which only 54 percent are beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, with the desire to meet the Inuit Employment Plan of increasing Inuit numbers in management positions, how are these numbers decreasing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a various number of programs within the government. This government is committed to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principle of *Pilimmaksarniq* and we intend to

increase Inuit employees within the government.

We do have a number of programs that have been transferred into Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and we do have an Inuit employment coordinator to manage all this. I know it has been very difficult at times to increase the numbers of Inuit working within the government. As you know, there are a lot of Inuit who are on casual.

There are also a lot of other opportunities out there that Inuit pursue rather than just going to the government for employment. There are other organizations out there that Inuit do join up and become employees of these other organizations. Not all Inuit want to work for the government.

Once some of these Inuit employees get trained up in a certain sector, they do move on to where they want, not necessarily all within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 089 – 4(2): Harvesters’ Assistance Programs

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Environment.

On Friday, May 30, I asked the minister some questions on one of his hunters’ assistance programs, wildlife prevention, and I would like to quote his response from the *Hansard* which are unedited. “NTI’s hunters’ assistance program will

be suspended, apparently, by the fall. With respect to the hunters’ assistance programs from the Government of Nunavut and NTI, there was consensus that it would be better for NTI to carry out an assistance program for hunters instead of the Government of Nunavut...”

I ask the minister if there are going to be no more hunter assistance programs from the Department of Environment because this government feel that it is NTI’s role or responsibility. 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 have been speaking only Inuktitut and he asked his question in English. I have looked at my answer this morning and what I stated in Inuktitut was not the same as the English. Once they have been provided to my office in Inuktitut, if we are to review the Inuktitut version, it was not the same as the English. I have stated in English thusly.

NTI has presently suspended their hunters’ support program up until the fall. This coming fall, they may have a new hunters’ support program. However, I’m still speaking in Inuktitut in that way. Mr. Speaker, I stated that we have to review our programs because it will have an effect on some of our own governmental hunters’ support programs that we provide to the hunters.

We understood that the English translation was not the same as what my

Inuktitut statements were previously.
Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Member for (interpretation ends) Arviat
South, Mr. Savikataaq, your first
supplementary.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, let me ask
the minister if they are reviewing that
program in their provision of the support
to hunters. Are they working with NTI,
who have also reviewed their hunters'
support program? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated
personally in that manner. My
department and NTI have two programs
available for hunters. What needed to be
paid attention to... We have not
stopped any of our assistance programs
that we provide as a government to our
hunters. However, there is some concern
that hunters who are being supported
should be receiving their support in a
timely manner.

While NTI is reviewing their program,
perhaps as an example, if we have two
different programs altogether for the
hunters, then the hunters' support
program would not be as beneficial if
they were similar.

All I'm stating is that as a government,
we are reviewing our hunters' support
programs. NTI has reviewed their
programs and had them suspended. It
would indicate in what direction they
have moved, and then we would be able

to provide better hunters' support
programs to our hunters if our programs
weren't similar. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. Let me then ask the
minister if the GN will be telling us what
their program will be like only after NTI
has a review of theirs. Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The harvesters'
support program that we have as a
government is under review. While our
department is doing their review, we will
still be able to provide what we do have
currently. We have to think about them
carefully. We will not be suspending our
harvesters' support program in any way
whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 090 – 4(2): Development Partnership Agreements

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I
say "good day" to my fellow residents of
Baker Lake. My questions are for the
Minister of Economic Development and
Transportation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is
well aware, the government's
development partnership agreement for

the Meadowbank Mine near Baker Lake was signed in 2007.

Under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Development Partnership Agreement Policy, companies that enter into a DPA with the government are required to produce implementation reports.

Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the most recent implementation report for the Meadowbank project before the end of the current spring sitting of 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 day" to my fellow Nunavummiut, especially my fellow residents of Arviat and Whale Cove. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I can provide an answer to the question. If there were no impediments providing that answer now, I would provide it because I don't have it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The proposed Meliadine gold mine project near Rankin Inlet will affect all Kivalliq communities, including Baker Lake. Can the minister indicate if discussions have started towards signing a development

partnership agreement in respect to this project? 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. That's an excellent question. Mr. Speaker, we presently have one agreement. He was talking about another mining company. There are other various companies that we may be having DPAs with and we are having discussions with them at the present time and during this fiscal year. Once we complete them, we will provide the answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proposed Kiggavik uranium mine near Baker Lake is also moving forward. Can the minister indicate if discussions have started towards signing a development partnership agreement in respect to this project? 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. As I stated, we only have one agreement at the present time. Kiggavik is also one of those that have yet to make an agreement with our government, so they will be proceeding

towards doing that this fiscal year.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 091 – 4(2): Approaches on
Managing Waste**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I would like to direct my
question to the Minister of Community
and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today in my
Member's Statement, I spoke of the need
for government to work with the people
of Nunavut to address problems
associated with garbage and waste.

Can the minister update this House on
what kinds of support his department
offers to groups or individuals who
propose innovative ways to address
waste management in Nunavut? 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. There are a number of
initiatives that my department has
looked into and we have discussions
with other levels of government on how
we can deal with the issues of landfill
management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. Can the minister provide an
update on his department's role in the
Modern Municipal Solid Waste
Facilities in Northern Climate Project
and if any Nunavut communities are
participating in the project? 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. All levels of government
recognize that existing practices in
managing municipal solid waste
programs are not acceptable at this point,
and we're all working together to see
what we can do to alleviate the problem
with solid waste. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. As we are all well aware, the
growing amount of garbage is a serious
concern not only for the environment but
also for our health. Can the minister
provide further detail on what measures
are being taken to sort, collect, and
dispose of toxic or hazardous waste
across Nunavut's communities? 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. In most of our communities in
Nunavut, what we have done is we have
identified, in the development of landfill

sites, different areas within the landfill site where solid waste or metal waste and some hazardous material are all separated. At some point, we will meet with the municipal governments to determine how we can deal with the issues of disposal. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Question 092 – 4(2):
Telecommunications in the North**

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

As the minister will be aware, the Department of CGS has made a number of submissions and presentations to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission regarding its review of such matters as NorthwesTel's modernization plan and telecommunications in the north.

Can the minister outline what goals the Government of Nunavut has with respect to improving telecommunications services in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the time, in June 2013, CRTC held hearings and reviewed NorthwesTel's modernization

plan. GN had given its concerns at that meeting and at that time, CRTC stated that NorthwesTel's responsibilities were not going to increase the telecommunications or Internet services. They didn't have the fast Internet, so we were quite concerned about that and we made the submission to CRTC. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June [2013], I noted that the Department of CGS made an appearance before the CRTC during its public hearings in Inuvik.

At that time, the GN stated, and I quote, "Culturally, information and communications technologies should play a greater role in disseminating traditional Inuit knowledge, enhancing the availability of Inuit languages in digital media and provide new grounds for Nunavummiut to create and distribute new Inuit culture created for a digital age."

Mr. Speaker, I completely agree with this goal. Can the minister outline what specific initiatives his department his working on to help achieve it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In government, we have roles and responsibilities. The government departments also have roles and responsibilities, including the

Department of Education and the Department of Culture and Heritage, and we work with these departments. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Arctic Fibre is a fibre optic telecommunications project that is “developing one of the largest subsea cable networks in the world.”

Can the minister indicate what discussions his department has had with Arctic Fibre concerning its proposals for improving connectivity in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the beginning of this year, in January 2014, we held the Northern Lights Conference and we met with Arctic Fibre. During our discussions, we announced to them that we’re interested in their project. As a government, we have to look for ways and look at other service providers, but once we get the results, we will be able to provide that information. Thank you.

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

Question 093 – 4(2): Need for a Medical Boarding Home in Rankin Inlet

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Rankin Inlet is an important transportation hub for the Kivalliq region. Medical patients travel to Rankin from the outlying communities to see visiting doctors and specialists. However, there is no boarding home or transient centre for medical clients to stay in.

I note that there is a very comfortable and well-operated facility in Iqaluit. Even Churchill, Manitoba has a nice facility operated by our government.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to opening a medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Rankin Inlet South for asking that question. Our staff is now having discussions with Health Canada officials, so I can’t give you any further details on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am certain that with the improved services at the new Rankin Inlet Health facility, more and more medical clients from across the region will be travelling to Rankin Inlet for medical reasons.

Can the minister describe how she works with her officials to address the accommodation needs of medical clients and escorts travelling to Rankin Inlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The officials and staff of the Department of Health are now at the discussion stage with federal officials and they're now reviewing how the patients in the Kivalliq can utilize the health centre in Rankin Inlet. There are fewer patients going to Churchill now and they're now utilizing the health centre in Rankin Inlet. They are also starting to use the hotels. We're now looking at the population growth of the community. We're still reviewing this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe that establishing a medical boarding home or transient centre in the community of Rankin Inlet would not only lead to cost savings for the department, but would also provide a better service to its medical clients. Will the minister commit to undertaking a

cost-benefit analysis of establishing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet and report on her findings to the Members of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The boarding homes, whether it's in Iqaluit, for example, in Ottawa, and other places are not owned by the government, but the federal government pays for the medical boarding homes. We get the funding from the federal government and we pay for those. We're now at the discussion stage with the organization in Rankin Inlet as to how we can move forward with this. At this time, we have just begun the discussions. I can't give you any further details on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 094 – 4(2): Western Canada Lottery Act

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

On March 11, the minister tabled the financial statements of the Western Canada Lottery for 2012-13 in the Legislative Assembly. On May 26, just months later, the minister tabled what seems to be the same document that was initially tabled in March.

Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed both documents and can't find any differences. Can the minister indicate what the difference is between the two annual reports that he tabled? 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. If I tabled the same document during two different times, it was an error on my part and I will look into seeing what happened there. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Western Canada Lottery Act* was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly on December 8, 2009. Section 4 of the Act provides that "profits accruing to the Government of Nunavut from the Western Canada Lottery shall be used for the purpose of promoting sport and recreational opportunities for Nunavummiut."

Mr. Speaker, the 2012-13 financial statements of the Western Canada Lottery in Nunavut reports that the lottery's net profit was over \$600,000 for 2012-13. Can the minister describe how his department is using these profits to promote sports and recreation for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much for that question. The sole purpose of having these lottery terminals is to provide money for sports and recreation activities throughout Nunavut. That's where all of the money goes. Any money that comes in through the lottery is provided to all sports and recreation activities. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that the government is transparent when spending funds that are raised specifically to promote social wellness, including sports and recreation.

Will the minister commit to providing a breakdown of where the profits are being directed? 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 would be happy to provide that information. Thank you.

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

Question 095 – 4(2): Road Maintenance Funding

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that I have asked this question about funding for roads. I also realize that we can't really change how we can use the money that each community can make proposals to and access money out of in order to use it for roads.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us how many communities access funds out of the road-making funds? 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. Thank you for that question. Communities are all different in size. Communities have requested between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister know how many communities have accessed that money? That was my question. Can you answer that question, please. 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. The communities like this program and it benefits the programs in different areas. Many communities access money from that program. As an example, in 2012,

19 communities accessed it for roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that clear response. I know about this program because I was a settlement administrator once at the hamlet. The money available is not enough for the hamlets, especially when you're trying to build a road of any length that goes any distance. For the two communities that I represent, it's just not enough. It helps somewhat.

Is there anyway that you could increase the limit of \$50,000 that communities can ask for? The reason is that everything has gone up in price. For example, fuel has gone up in price. Can you agree with me when I ask you if you can increase the money that communities can ask for through that program? 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 totally understand my colleague and I know what he's talking about. I know that it benefits the communities and the hunters.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to give more money to the communities. However, as I stated, each community can ask for \$25,000 to \$50,000 for access roads. That's what we have budgeted right

now. If we allowed some communities to get larger amounts, then we would have to give smaller amounts to other communities, but we can look into your question. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 096 – 4(2): Iqaluit International Airport

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question of the day is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$30,118,000 in capital funding for the new Iqaluit International Airport. Can the minister provide us with a brief update today on the status of this project? 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. Thank you for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, it's proceeding well. The contractors that will be doing the actual work... The work is being done first to fall because the contractor knows they are doing the project. The old airstrip and the old airport terminal are too small now. It's June now. The way I understand it is that everything is proceeding on schedule. The contractors are going to be taking over the project in

the middle of July. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the budget for this project was being considered by the Legislative Assembly earlier this year, the House was informed that the design work for the project was "almost complete." Can the minister indicate if the design work has been completed as of today? 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. With regard to the airport terminal project in Iqaluit, my department and the finance department work together and the project is proceeding well. I don't have the answer to your question right now, but I can get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Do you have one more? (interpretation) Your final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. Earlier this year, on a few different occasions, but here in the House, I raised the issue of ensuring that the design of the new airport included a jet walk or bridge to assist people with disabilities in boarding and deplaning aircraft with dignity. Mr. Speaker, at that time, the House was informed that this issue was still under consideration. Can the minister indicate if the final design

of the new airport will include this important feature? 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. That's a good question. When I have the answer, I will get back to the member. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 097 – 4(2): The Loss of Federal Funding for Search and Rescue in Nunavut

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last week, I asked a question about search and rescue organizations to see how we can provide more assistance to them. We exchanged letters afterwards. According to the minister's response, he said that the funding for search and rescue from the federal government was cut. Can you explain it a little more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said last

year, we get funding for emergency services from the federal government for search and rescues. However, the funding we get from the federal government was clawed back. The program was cut, so the GN funds it on its own now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With the fact that search and rescue funding is run by the government, can the minister work to make the funding whole again or lobby to get the funding reinstated to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been in talks with the federal government about the matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Last week, when you were answering questions and giving some good news to the search and rescue groups in Nunavut, it was real good to hear.

However, search and rescue groups need more funding and your department will be looking more into it. Are you going to see if the federal government can

reinstate the funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dealing with emergency measures and search and rescues is very important. It's my responsibility and I want it to run better. That's why we have requested additional funding of \$250,000 to the program and the total budget is now \$800,000. Thank you.

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

Question 098 – 4(2): Status of the Nunavut Development Corporation

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the statutory mandate of the corporation is to provide employment to Nunavut residents through its nine subsidiary companies.

While it is important to assist the growth of Nunavut businesses, it is also important that government's investments promote self-sufficient operation.

In its 2013-14 corporate business plan, the Nunavut Development Corporation indicated that one of its priorities is to "critically assess the performance of any existing subsidiary company from a cost

per job creation position and take corrective action necessary for those companies deemed ineffective according to the Corporation's own investment guidelines."

Can the minister describe what actions the corporation is currently taking to assess the performance of its nine subsidiary companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, as we have always indicated as a government and as the department, the Nunavut Development Corporation falls under my department. From the cabinet retreat in Kugluktuk when we came up with *Sivumut Abluqta*, we are supposed to look at what runs well and what doesn't run well.

We are supposed to review the companies and make sure that they run well. If there are any companies that don't run well and make revenue, then they should be closed down if necessary. We should look for other businesses that can run well and make money. That is what we're doing as a department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to recognize that operating costs for businesses in

Nunavut is very high. As a result, it is not easy for subsidiary companies to operate at a profit.

Can the minister indicate how the corporation is addressing the issue of high operating costs among its subsidiary companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the companies have to be able to run properly and they have to spend the money properly. This is the job of our business, including NDC.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that last week, the NDC board of directors had a meeting here in Iqaluit. I met with them and we discussed all the things that the member is asking about. They have to be operating properly. If there are any problems, if the operation is not running properly, or if there are any other problems, NDC will have to look at all of those things. That's what we talked about when we had a meeting, for NDC to be able to assess each of those problems in each region. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The corporation's business plan also indicates that it may offer "mentoring and business aftercare" to its subsidiary companies, which would

support businesses in becoming commercially viable. Can the minister describe what kind of training, if any, the companies are offered as a part of this mentoring and aftercare? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, NDC has various kinds of companies, such as commercial fisheries and meat, carvings, arts and crafts within Nunavut. Various training is provided in each community, depending on the community, and they will be mentoring or giving training to those companies after finding out which companies need training and mentoring. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 099 – 4(2): Municipal Contribution Agreements

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the hamlets and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation have contribution agreements for the hamlets to use in their community. In the contribution agreement, the \$90,000 is set aside to be used in the communities. Can that \$90,000 be used for access roads in and outside the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the member's question, the money is set aside to be given to hamlets for access roads outside or in the community, whether it be a small business, that money is set aside. Each hamlet likes having money for access roads and the member is asking if the \$90,000 could be used for access roads. Mr. Speaker, communities have different needs. That's all I can say. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister commit to find that out? I know that his staff know what I'm talking about and the question that I'm asking. I want to know whether we would be able to access the \$90,000 to be used for making access roads in a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We provide money to the hamlets for economic development and various things. The other one is a little bit different because we set aside some money for economic development and the other one is for access roads.

Just to let the member know and to be clear, I will look into the question that

he's asking. If I understand his question properly, I could let the member know what I can do about that. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) Item 9. (interpretation ends) 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. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 001 – 4(2): Report on the Review of the 2013 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Education in Nunavut and Safety of Schools and Childcare Facilities in Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2013 reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on education in Nunavut and safety of schools and child care facilities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's reports were tabled in the House on November 19, 2013. As with other reports presented to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut by the

Auditor General, this report was subsequently considered by the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, which was established by way of motion on March 6, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's reports from April 1 to 3, 2014. The hearings were open to the public and news media to observe. The hearings were televised live across Nunavut. Transcripts of the hearings are being made available for downloading from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, the presentation of these reports marked Mr. Michael Ferguson's second formal appearance before a standing committee of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. I would note, however, that this was not the first time that the Office of the Auditor General has reported to the Legislative Assembly on the Government of Nunavut's education system. In 2007, the Auditor General presented a report on the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program.

Mr. Speaker, it was noted during our hearings that the Office of the Auditor General had initially begun a single comprehensive audit of education in Nunavut. However, during the initial phases of the audit, a number of observations raised concerns directly relating to the safety and security of educational facilities. Consequently, the Office of the Auditor General undertook an additional audit focusing specifically on safety and security issues, with an extended focus on child care facilities as well as schools. The comprehensive

audit resulted in two reports. Mr. Speaker, the standing committee greatly appreciates the Auditor General's timely focus on issues relating to safety and security and in bringing those findings to the immediate attention of government officials in order that they could be addressed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the participation of witnesses from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Education and Department of Community and Government Services during our April hearings. As noted by staff from the Office of the Auditor General, departmental witnesses answered the majority of the questions posed by members and provided a significant amount of additional information relating to Nunavut's educational system and the resources and procedures that are in place to ensure that schools and child care facilities across Nunavut are safe and secure.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee was pleased to receive copies of the Department of Education's five-year work plans outlining its short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives to address the issues raised in the Auditor General's reports and looks forwards to regular updates on progress made towards achieving the stated objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note further that the Auditor General's report will be of significant value during the Legislative Assembly's upcoming review of the *Education Act*.

Nunavut's *Education Act* came into force on July 1, 2009. Section 202.1 provides that the Legislative Assembly shall review the provisions and operations of the Act. The Auditor General's reports not only provide important and informed insights, but the deliberations during our April hearings allowed members to gain additional perspectives on various issues that may be brought forward for consideration during the Legislative Assembly's detailed review of the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report on education in Nunavut presented eight specific recommendations. These recommendations addressed the following thematic areas:

- Progress on implementing Nunavut's *Education Act*;
- Bilingual education;
- Inclusive education;
- Development of teaching resources; and
- Collecting, analyzing, and reporting on information related to the government's progress in implementing the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report on safety in schools and child care facilities also presented eight specific recommendations. These recommendations addressed the following thematic areas:

- Frequency of facility inspections;
- The lack of follow-up with respect to deficiencies identified in inspections;
- Procedures, guidelines, and protocols to ensure safety in all facilities;
- Training of education and early child care education staff; and

- Interdepartmental communication and cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee concurs with the recommendations of the Auditor General and notes that the government itself formally agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, during the committee's proceedings, members raised many important issues and questions concerning the government's policies and practices relating to Nunavut's education system, and a number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee's review of the Auditor General's most recent reports to the Legislative Assembly.

As the House is aware, Nunavut's *Education Act*, which was passed in 2008 and came into force on July 1, 2009, lays out a number of specific requirements which, in many respects, determine how the education system is structured and delivered.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the hearings, it was clear that several factors are contributing to delaying progress towards achieving the specified objectives by the legislated timelines. Accordingly, the standing committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1. That the Government of Nunavut, as a whole and with the collaboration of its key departments and agencies, put a higher priority on developing strong and clear directives relating to the use of the Inuit language across Nunavut with specific focus on the writing system,**

terminology, and the role of dialects.

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee's hearings, many issues relating to language were raised with respect to the Department of Education's overall success in implementing Nunavut's *Education Act*. From the historic impact of language of instruction regimes in the past to the current variations in language abilities of students, as well as from region to region, to the widely divergent literacy skills and linguistic abilities of individuals within Nunavut's school system, and the struggles to develop Inuit language curriculum and resource materials for all grade levels, these factors and others pose significant challenges to delivering an education system consistently across the territory.

Members of the standing committee have expressed concern that the Department of Education's current activities to develop Inuit language materials and to deliver a standard level of language instruction are inconsistent across the territory. Having a solid foundation upon which to base Inuit language policies, including clear direction with respect to writing systems and the use of dialects, could provide much needed support for strengthening Inuit language use across Nunavut's schools. If this issue is not addressed as a priority, the Department of Education risks further delays in its ability to deliver a successful education system in accordance with the *Education Act*.

2. That the Department of Education, in response to the report and recommendations of the Auditor General, immediately

establish its database to collect data on educators' training and language skill sets, analyze the data, and prepare a report on the current status of its educators' training and language skill sets.

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee's hearings, it was noted that in order to meet the required levels of language instruction, individuals with varying levels of language expertise and teaching experience are being employed to teach across Nunavut's schools. In addition, it is not clear how the department assesses, evaluates, and monitors the delivery of Inuit language instruction across schools.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee is of the view that establishing a baseline of educator training and language skills will allow for improved allocation of resources, personnel, and training programs.

3. That the Government of Nunavut consider ways to ensure that graduates from Nunavut Arctic College's Nunavut Teacher Education Program remain committed to working as teachers in Nunavut following graduation.

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee's hearings, testimony from the Deputy Minister of Education indicated that a significant number of individuals who are trained and qualified through the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, or NTEP, are hired by other government departments and agencies. This "poaching" of trained and certified Inuit teachers has long been an issue, but has never been formally addressed. While it is a testament to the excellent

educational standards of the NTEP program that its graduates are highly sought after across government departments and agencies, this practice does little to advance the development of bilingual education.

Mr. Speaker, some suggested examples of ways to encourage teachers to remain committed to staying in teaching positions could include such measures as terms of service or conditions upon graduation, contractual agreements linked to financial and other supports or the provision of additional incentives.

4. That the Department of Education take immediate steps to determine the number of bilingual educators that will be need to be employed, in both the short term and the long term, in order to deliver bilingual education as required by the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee's hearings, it was clear that a key factor in the department's ability to deliver bilingual education is the availability of bilingual educators. A number of studies and reports have highlighted the need for concentrated efforts to train and graduate bilingual teachers. It is not clear that sufficient success has been achieved in this area. Mr. Speaker, a realistic estimate of how many bilingual educators will need to be employed to teach in Nunavut's schools will assist legislators in determining whether the bilingual education requirements contained in the current legislation are realistic and achievable.

5. That the Department of Education re-evaluate the policy of inclusive education, complete its cost

analysis for developing and offering differentiated instruction training workshops for educators, and be prepared to present its findings during the Legislative Assembly's review of the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of its hearings, the standing committee focused on a number of critical areas that impact the successful delivery of education across Nunavut. Although policies and practices relating to inclusive education have been in place in Nunavut's education system since the creation of the territory, they were not entrenched within legislation until being included in Part 6 of the current *Education Act*. Mr. Speaker, similar to the requirements to deliver bilingual education, in order for inclusive education to be successful within Nunavut's education system, significant investments in training, resources, and personnel will also be necessary in order to be able to realistically achieve the requirements established in the legislation.

The Legislative Assembly's upcoming review of the *Education Act* will be an opportunity to give full consideration to the costs, benefits, and challenges posed by including inclusive education requirements within the legislation.

6. That the Department of Education ensure that its annual reports, as required under section 126 of the *Education Act*, are tabled in a timely manner and, further, that the Department of Education's annual reports specifically address progress on the implementation of the *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the timely preparation and tabling of reports is an ongoing concern. Section 126 (1) of the *Education Act* provides that the minister shall, within 12 months after the end of each school year, prepare a report on the education system in Nunavut. The 2009-2010 annual report on the education system in Nunavut was tabled on February 26, 2013. The 2010-11 and 2011-12 annual reports were tabled on September 13, 2013.

As noted by the Office of the Auditor General, timely reporting is important to ensure that problem areas be identified as soon as possible so that steps can be taken to address them sooner rather than later. Mr. Speaker, reviewing the department's annual reports in a timely manner will allow Members of the Legislative Assembly to monitor progress in all areas of the education system and to provide support to the department in its efforts.

- 7. That the departments of Education and Community and Government Services continue to work together to establish a monitoring system to ensure that inspections and procedures necessary for the safety and security of schools and child care facilities are conducted on a regular basis and that identified deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.**

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee's hearings, committee members learned that many inspections of schools and child care facilities had not been carried out on a timely basis and that even when deficiencies were

identified, follow-up mechanisms did not ensure that they were addressed.

Mr. Speaker, while it was recognized that a lack of qualified personnel and other capacity issues played a role in creating this situation, it was stressed that the safety of children and staff is of paramount importance, and any shortcomings in this area should be immediately flagged for attention. The standing committee acknowledges that immediate action was taken to address the situation when the deputy ministers of both the departments of Education and Community and Government Services were notified by the Office of the Auditor General prior to the tabling of the Auditor General's reports.

- 8. That the Department of Community and Government Services, through its Protection Services and Facilities Management divisions, and in conjunction with the Office of the Fire Marshal, work to strengthen systems and procedures, such as clearly establishing the necessary frequency of inspections, to ensure the safety and security of school and child care facilities and to provide regular updates on efforts in this area.**

Mr. Speaker, during the standing committee's hearings, it was noted that although requirements for safety and other inspections are established in legislation, the frequency of those inspections are not specifically prescribed. Further clarification of roles and responsibilities, as well as clear direction on the processes to follow up on addressing safety issues must be provided to all parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by noting that the standing committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), formally requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The report has been received by the House.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 016 – 4(2): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit Annual Report 2009-2010

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Annual Report of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit for 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have one.

Tabled Document 017 – 4(2): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Thank you, members. I wish to table today a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. This list is current as of the end of the May 30, 2014 sitting of the House. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. The Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 004 – 4(2): Appointment of the Representative for Children and Youth – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Sherry McNeil-Mulak be appointed as Representative for Children and Youth, effective June 16, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous... I’m sorry. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. The Hon. Minister of Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 16: Motions

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

Motion 004 – 4(2): Appointment of the Representative for Children and Youth

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

WHEREAS section 2 of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* provides that the representative for children and youth is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Sherry McNeil-Mulak be appointed as Representative for Children and Youth, effective June 16, 2014.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. The Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am humbled to speak in favour of the motion before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the need to ensure one of the most vulnerable sectors of our society, children and youth, receive the services necessary to protect their rights and well-being.

The position of Nunavut's representative for children and youth as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly is a result of a great deal of collaboration and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, the journey to create Nunavut's independent representative for children and youth began in Cambridge Bay in 1999 with Debbie Gray, a long-serving teacher making the case.

I can recall standing in this House almost 10 years ago to the day asking our government to seriously consider the need for advocacy. In the First Assembly, MLA Rebekah Williams championed the cause within the House, and in our Third Assembly, MLA Ron Elliott carried the torch.

I want to acknowledge and thank the many individuals along the way who worked towards creating this important office, including Brenda Jancke, the late Elwood Johnson, David General, and Johnny Ningeongan. There were also

many public servants, individuals, and organizations that contributed to the development of our legislation.

Ms. Carol Chafe, who serves as the Advocate for Children and Youth for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, assisted throughout the process. Ms. Chafe has served as the chair of the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates and provided tremendous advice and expertise to our board.

Mr. Speaker, our Management and Services Board held a transparent, competitive, and merit-based selection process. From this process, we're now in a position to appoint Nunavut's first representative for children and youth.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Sherry McNeil-Mulak is a long-term northerner, mother, and Iqaluit resident. She brings a wide range of knowledge, skills, and experience to this important role. She is very familiar with the social and cultural issues that exist across our territory, and we can all be confident in her appointment as Nunavut's first representative for children and youth.

Mr. Speaker, over the coming year, Ms. McNeil-Mulak will carry on the necessary work to fully establish the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Mr. Speaker, today is a proud day for Nunavut, especially for our children and our youth. I ask all of my colleagues to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. All

those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed.

>>*Applause*

The motion is carried. Congratulations to Sherry McNeil-Mulak, our first Representative for Children and Youth.

>>*Applause*

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2 and Bill 3 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:22 and Committee resumed at 15:44*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Before we proceed, Nunavummiut who are listening and watching the proceedings, welcome to your committee and always be welcome to your committee. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2 and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Education, followed by

the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Please state your agreement properly. Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in Mr. Quassa's witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Mr. Quassa's witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Quassa, as we took our break during the weekend, please introduce your witnesses for the record once again. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik (interpretation) and to my right is Mr. Marc Rose, (interpretation ends) Controller. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Welcome to the House, Ms. Okpik and Mr. Rose. We will continue where we left off. We were going to

page G-9. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a couple of questions.

Mr. Chairman, according to the draft business plan from the Department of Education, funding allocated to the Young Parents Stay Learning program was originally \$133,000 for 2013-14, but it was increased to \$228,000 in the revised estimates for that year. A budget of \$140,000 is allocated for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Is the number of young parents being supported through this program increasing or are the costs of subsidizing daycare increasing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) I would like to remind members that if you're going to have questions or if you have questions and you would like your name on the list, please identify yourself ahead of time. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his clear question regarding the Young Parents Stay Learning program. Let me state first that the Young Parents Stay Learning program reduces the number of students... . If the students don't attend, then they reduce the amount of funding for this. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, we increased the funding, thinking that there would be more people that we will be providing services to, but it follows the number of students attending school. If they don't attend, then their daycare funding is reduced.

At the end of the year, we found out that the funding we thought we were going to use was no longer used, so we put it back to the original figure. If there is more interest out there, we will be able to look into this to see whether or not we need to increase the number if there are more interested people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has come to my attention recently that the amount of the Young Parents Stay Learning program subsidy provided to a young parent who is trying to stay in school is a fixed amount. At the Inuksuk Infant Development Centre Daycare at Inuksuk High School here in Iqaluit, that fixed amount is not enough to cover the cost of the space in the daycare.

Mr. Chairman, why does the amount of subsidy provided under the Young Parents Stay Learning program not fully cover the cost of a daycare space for a young parent trying to stay in school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also

like to thank the member for his question. I can provide an answer by saying that this is a subsidy only. As we have stated earlier, it only follows the number of students who attend school. It's to be used for licensed child daycares or unlicensed child care facilities.

To elaborate further, looking at one child a month, it would cost \$700. If the child attends daycare daily, it would cost \$600 for a child who attends family home care. It would cost \$500 for full-time unlicensed care per child. It would be \$350 for part time to a licensed daycare. It would be \$300 for part time to a licensed family home care. It would be \$145 for a school-aged child. Those are the different levels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the minister can explain to me how a young adult, under the age of 18, attending school full time with a young child to look after, is expected to earn an additional \$200 to \$300 every month to pay for daycare space so that his or her child can be cared for while he or she is in school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I'll be able to tell the member that we can review this fully and look at the price. We can review it fully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the minister is committing to reviewing the amount provided for daycare space so that it actually covers the cost of that space, so the parent can continue to be supported to stay in school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated, we can review this fully and look at it. I can't tell you what will occur, but I can say that we will look into it. As I have stated earlier, some children don't attend daycare and that's why the funding is no longer used. Perhaps we will encourage the parents to bring their children to daycare, and then we will give it full attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Moving on. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just under healthy children initiative programs, I was wondering if you could tell me how much was spent on supportive services, if you can elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you can elaborate on that, (interpretation ends) hon. minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's detailed there in the plan. There are a number of

them, but I can list them if you want. You have to look at all the communities in a different way. Maybe I'll speak in English.

(interpretation ends) It's not broken down, but I can give you the various amounts. For example, the budget for 2014-15 is \$980,000; \$431,899.31 has already been allocated. For the Kitikmeot region, we have \$200,000; \$126,507.32 has already been allocated. For the Kivalliq region, we have \$271,000; \$63,937.99 has been allocated. For the Qikiqtani region, we have \$437,000; \$241,454 has already been allocated. That's not a breakdown of what the member is asking, but that's the general amount. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us how you determine how the funding will be allocated to each community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's another question from our fellow MLA. Let us all be aware that these are accessed through proposals. Ever since this was created, the money that can be used, sometimes all of the communities... (interpretation ends) Each community has an allocation of a certain amount, but again, it's proposal-based. I don't know if I answered your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister.
Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is around daycare grants and contributions. Can you tell us how many new daycare spaces have been created in the last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can respond by saying that we haven't created any new daycares, but I know that the community of Igloolik, for example, is always asking for a daycare. However, to date, we haven't created any new daycares. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. With that in mind, what kind of strategies do you have in place to address the ever-continuing growing need for daycare spaces? Where are we going to be at over the next five to ten years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're starting to consider what is called junior kindergarten. We know that in Nunavut, the kindergarten students start with just half a day of school.

When we look into this, we're going to see if kindergarteners can spend the whole day in school. Some of the other jurisdictions have full-time junior kindergarten classes. We're looking to see if we can do that here. Perhaps it can help the daycares if we put our kindergarten students in the classroom full time instead of having to be in the daycares. It would lessen the need for daycares.

Let us be aware that the way it is now, whenever we build new schools, we're going to include a daycare inside them. We're always going to be supporting this because we always support the community daycare centres and private daycare homes. However, let us also be aware that we don't have an endless supply of money for new daycare centres.

We should also be aware that the communities themselves create their own daycare centres and we support them with money. We have a funding program for the start-up of new daycare centres. They have to start the program themselves by looking for money. We support them financially afterwards.

Going back to one of my first comments, we're looking to see how we can lessen the need for daycares by creating junior kindergarten classes, where kindergarteners can spend the whole day in classes instead of half a day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering: if you have the junior kindergarten, will the schools

be able to accommodate the extra demand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, we're just looking into this now. In the Northwest Territories, it exists over there and we want to look at it. We're trying to make some plans for the future. Of course, we will have to look at the spaces available. If kindergarteners have to spend the whole day, then we would probably have to find some extra classrooms. I hope that makes sense, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Daycares should be a priority because when there is no daycare, the parents who want to work or go back to school have nowhere to turn.

Going to another topic, (interpretation ends) DEA Early Childhood Education, I'm wondering how these funds have been spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what we have seen, a lot of money that isn't used is just given back to us. The DEAs have to give it back to us if they don't spend all of the money. The way it is, if we can look at 2011-12, the money that had to be returned ended up being our surplus. From the Qikiqtani, Kivalliq,

and Kitikmeot regions, \$1.6 million was returned in 2011-12 and the surplus was \$1.2 million. A lot of money is not used. In 2012-13, out of the \$1.6 million program funding, the surplus was \$1,287,555.

The new Early Childhood Division that we are creating will help local DEAs how they can spend the money properly. That is what we are going to do. We are going to be reviewing the *Education Act*. That can be included in the *Education Act* review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) We are on page G-9. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There was a question asked about this, but I would like to ask a question about the (interpretation ends) Young Parents Stay Learning program.

(interpretation) In Baker Lake, some young parents who are students have never heard about this program. What can the department do to promote this to young parents who are in school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from my colleague. What I just talked about, the Early Childhood Division that we will be creating will help with things like this, informing the communities. The Early Childhood Division will help local

DEAs. It will also inform them of things they need to know.

School principals will be the signatories of these proposals. Whatever programs that needs to be known about will be one of the things the principal has to promote. It's the school principal or the vice-principal's job. When there is a principal's conference, it is where they will disseminate the information as well. Of course, through the offices of MLAs in the communities, they can also help to promote this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The people of Baker Lake and some of the students who are young parents did not know about this subsidy program. It's great that they're going to know about it now. The Healthy Children's Initiative helps a great deal in our community.

My question is, as the minister stated before, young parents who are in school will be helped. For the child to be involved in the program, does the parent always have to be involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. In Baker Lake, the Aupilarturvik Play Group has received \$63,588 through a proposal.

However, they were approved for \$39,000.

It's a two-part funding program. You need to have a society status in order to access the funds through a proposal. Different groups can request money. The DEAs or the municipalities can also request money on their own, or family day homes in their own, for the benefit of the community and through a support system as well. That's where they access the funding. The other side of the program is where they can access money for students who are between the ages of zero to six.

Up to May 12, 2014, there were 25 proposals received and we're still waiting on three of them. Proposals are used properly to access the Healthy Children's Initiative funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the Young Parents Stay Learning program again, I will go back to that again, would this type of program be promoted by the GLOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. We can use the GLOs in the communities to provide information too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. One of my colleagues had asked this, but in the future years, as you indicated, you're looking at providing child daycare services within the school infrastructure. My question to that now is: do you also take into consideration the threshold of human safety in an infrastructural building? What I'm thinking here is a fire marshal usually indicates the size of the infrastructure and what the limitations are for human threshold. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I don't know if that's a topic on this page. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to make sure and we have to be aware that there's law whereby a building can only hold so many people. There's law with respect to safety. There are usually people who have to make sure that the safety of the building, whether it be a daycare or whatever, is up to code. Those are the types of things that we have to follow if we're going to provide daycares in schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for allowing me to continue with that question. I thank the minister for his answer. On page 88 of your priorities 2013-14 and priorities 2014-15, on that first bullet, that's the only bullet on 2013-14, but on 2014-15, it's also included in the second bullet, the *Child Day Care Act*. Do you feel that you will have completed the

Child Day Care Act within that fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I can say that as a government, we will be able to complete it during the Fourth Assembly. What we have done so far is staff certification, funding options, and curriculum requirements in the daycares, as well as culture and language. We have also been reviewing the *Child Day Care Act* and Child Day Care Standards and Regulations. We have been reviewing those continually. Those things will be completed in the term of this government.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Priorities 2014-15 again, the very last bullet, "Strengthen support for language skills development in ECE programs." So you have materials that are already made to be provided to early childhood education programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, we have four themes. With respect to Mr. Mikkungwak's question, four themes have been completed and the four themes have different topics. That's the response to the member's question.

As I said, in the NWT, they have junior kindergarten programs. We will be getting someone to see how the NWT model is carried out with respect to junior kindergarten. They go to school for the whole day. That's what we want to be able to see and see what kind of curriculum they have. That's what I can respond with, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That question was asked already, but is the funding enough for all Nunavut communities or are you going to be asking for more funding for that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, we now know that that funding is not accessed by very many communities. We will look to see why there is a low uptake. There's going to be a new division dealing with that funding and to provide some information to the communities. Maybe they will ask for more funding once they find out what the funds can be used for.

This funding hasn't been accessed by many communities and there are may be various reasons. Even though there's money available, some DEA members don't really seem to be working on those properly. At times, some DEAs don't really want to sign an agreement with respect to that. They have various reasons and we have to review it more to

see what the problems might be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. We're on Branch Summary. Education. Mr Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question under Daycare Grants and Contributions. Does this include financially troubled daycares? Is this where they get funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The societies that are in existence have to be a society in order to access that funding or given that funding, but the entities that are not societies yet can't access this funding.

It states in the legislation that whoever wants to access the funding, these monies are for non-profit organizations. They have to be agreed to by the, and I will say it in English, (interpretation ends) Nunavut Legal Registries. (interpretation) They have to be approved by Nunavut Legal Registries. We can't approve some of the daycares because they're not a society and that is the case to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My colleague just asked part of the question that I was going to ask. In regard to the Healthy Children's

Initiative and early childhood education, what about (interpretation ends) children with disorders and disabilities? How is that taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, there are two types, the Healthy Children's Initiative money and the second one is for people who need supportive services. There are two pots of money that can be requested from. The Healthy Children's Initiative money can be used by the daycares. As I said, there are two pots of money that can be requested from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That was your one and only question, did you say? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have another question. A few minutes ago, it was stated that the government can only provide funding to societies that are properly incorporated. (interpretation ends) The daycares and Healthy Children's Initiatives, as indicated, have to be registered societies. Does your department help or assist communities in ensuring that these committees or daycares or HCI programs are assisted by your department in becoming registered societies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will answer in English. (interpretation ends) Of course, like any other society, they have to be in good standing in order for them to receive funds, but our department certainly will offer support. We will offer them where to go or who to go to, to get back their good standing. We're constantly there to help them out in any way we can.

We can only give funding to groups that have good standing through the Nunavut registries, (interpretation) the funding sources that is available. They must have proper society status. We try to provide assistance to the daycares all the time when needed by way of their boards. We provide them with whatever assistance we can provide in terms of expertise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on Branch Summary. Education. Early Childhood Education. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,484,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page G-10. Education. Branch Summary. Adult Learning and Educational Initiatives. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,270,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 3. Department

Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$184,230,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that the Department of Education is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have already concluded the department. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) if you have any closing remarks, I give you the opportunity now. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues for their meaningful questions. We are aware that as a government, education is an important priority and there will be improvements in the life our government. You will be advised concisely what the department will be doing in addressing the issues that were raised. I thank my officials for being with me here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister (interpretation) and your officials. We will move on. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

We will proceed with the review of the housing corporation after we have a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:33 and resumed at 16:45

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

Chairman (interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. We are on page L-3. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Kuksuk, (interpretation) welcome. As we proceed, I would like to ask you, minister, if you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table. Minister Kuksuk.

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut. With me today to my left is Heather Moffett, and to my right is Lori Kimball, (interpretation ends) Interim President and Chief Executive Officer (interpretation) of the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Ms.

Kimball and Ms. Moffat, welcome to the Assembly and welcome to the House. (interpretation) We will now proceed with the housing corporation. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) if you have any opening comments, you now have the floor. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. Thank you for allowing us to meet with you. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to meet with the members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2014-15 main estimates and business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As I said, I have with me today Lori Kimball, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, and Heather Moffett, Acting Executive Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The GN funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the fiscal year 2014-15 will increase by \$7,540,000 from the 2013-14 main estimates. The increase includes:

- \$4,677,000 to help cover the costs of new public housing units, including increased oil prices
- \$1,975,000 for new staff housing
- \$402,000 to offset the net reduction in CMHC funding

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

Access to adequate and suitable housing is intricately linked with other aspects of an individual's well-being, including health, education, and employment. Increased funding for housing will ensure more affordable and adequate housing options are available to meet the varied needs of Nunavummiut.

In accordance with the goals set out in the GN Long-term Comprehensive Housing Strategy, I look forward to lobbying the federal government to continue to discuss our growing housing issues in Nunavut and the requirements for new funding for both capital and operating costs.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-15 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. (interpretation) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have any opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

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

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2014-15 operations and maintenance budget of \$172,873,000 has

increased by approximately 4.3 percent since the introduction of its 2013-14 main estimates. The number of positions in the Nunavut Housing Corporation is 104. This is an increase of 14 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 Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that it has "completed a comprehensive organizational structure review" and that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "Implement approved recommendations" as a result of the comprehensive organizational structure review.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2014-215 main estimates includes funding for 27 positions in its Iqaluit directorate and 12 positions in its Arviat headquarters.

In June of 2011, amendments to the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly. These amendments provided for the establishment of a board of directors for the corporation. It is the standing committee's understanding that the board meets on a quarterly basis. The 2013-14 ministerial letter of expectation to the chairperson of the board of directors was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 17, 2013. The standing committee looks forward to the 2014-15 letter of expectation being tabled in the House in a timely manner.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2012-13 annual report was tabled in the

Legislative Assembly on March 20, 2014. The standing committee looks forward to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 annual report accounting in detail for the activities and decisions of the board of directors, including its audit committee, the statutory mandate of which includes the responsibility to "ensure the critical and objective oversight of the corporation's reporting of financial information and practices of strategic management and financial control."

Mr. Chairman, the 2008 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Nunavut Housing Corporation* noted that "the corporation's public housing program is delivered by 25 community-based partners, according to agreements that outline the roles and responsibilities of both the corporation and the community partner. The corporation is responsible for regularly monitoring and assessing the operations of its community partners to ensure that they deliver its public housing program effectively and in accordance with established policies and procedures."

Mr. Chairman, from time to time, concerns have been expressed regarding the extent to which the decisions of local housing organizations in such areas as public housing allocations and hiring of employees may be overruled by the corporation. The standing committee encourages the corporation to periodically review its management agreements with local housing organizations so as to ensure that all parties have a clear understanding of their respective authorities.

Although the standing committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that decisions in such areas as public housing allocations are made by local housing organizations in a consistent, unbiased, and transparent manner, it is equally important that the corporation recognize that local housing organizations are often in the best position to determine the most appropriate course of action when faced with community-specific situations. The standing committee recommends that this issue be explicitly addressed in the minister's 2014-15 letter of expectation to the chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's board of directors. The standing committee also recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current management agreements with local housing organizations be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On May 13 of 2013, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "Establish [an] interdepartmental collaboration structure for the development of a multi-year Action Plan" for the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

In 2004, a Member of the Legislative Assembly posed a written question in the Legislative Assembly concerning public housing rental arrears and tenant damages. The government's response indicated that as of November 2004, approximately \$6.6 million was owed in

public housing rent arrears to local housing organizations across the territory.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to "Strengthen Local Housing Organization financial management by the Nunavut Housing Corporation taking over the direct payment of the non-controllable utility expenses for Local Housing Organizations and allowing them to dedicate their resources to increased internal financial management on administration, maintenance and collection of rents."

The Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 13 of 2013, indicates that "arrears stood at \$18.5 million as of March 2012."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2012-13 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 20, 2014, indicates that the collection rate for public housing rent decreased from 84.4 percent in the 2011-12 fiscal year to 80.1 percent in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to "Complete [the] roll out of collections policy and procedures to reduce LHO arrears, and continue to develop and implement LHO deficit recovery plans." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2014-17 business plan also indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has "implemented

a number of pilot initiatives for the collection of LHO arrears to be included in a formal Arrear Reduction Plan. The NHC has drafted a Collections Policy that has been reviewed by the Board [of Directors] and approved for consultation with the GN.”

On January 24 of 2013, the Government of Nunavut announced changes to the public housing rent scale. The changes were originally scheduled to come into effect in the fall of 2013. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that it has “implemented the new Rent Scale Management System, which incorporates the changes made to the Public Housing Rent Scale on February 1, 2014.” The draft 2014-17 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to “monitor the impact of changes made to the Public Housing Rent Scale.”

The Government of Nunavut’s Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy observes that, and I quote, “There are several challenges with the staff housing program. First, it is a very expensive form of compensation, worth approximately \$18,500 to recipient employees as a non-taxable benefit. The program costs the government \$26.0 million annually. Another challenge arises from the discrepancy between staff housing tenants and those in private homes or apartments. Government employees who do not use staff housing receive an annual taxable housing allowance of \$4,800. This is about \$14,000 less than the value of the staff housing subsidy.

Though costly, the Government of Nunavut cannot abandon its staff housing program. The program remains an important element in the government’s recruitment and retention of employees. But for staff housing to become a stepping-stone to private-market rentals or homeownership, government will need to consider changes.

Staff housing should provide new employees who move into market communities with a home until they become settled. Then these employees should be encouraged to move into the private sector or discouraged from remaining in staff housing. The program does not support this transition currently, leaving many tenants to remain in staff housing for the long term.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to “research alternative approaches for the delivery of staff housing in emerging market communities.” The standing committee also notes that the Department of Finance’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates that “work continues with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to clarify roles and responsibilities regarding the Staff Housing Policy.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s budget for its homeownership programs is funded through its annual capital estimates. The corporation’s 2014-15 capital estimates, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly in March of 2014, included a total of \$4,616,000 in funding for homeownership programs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2014-17 business plan indicates

that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year is to “research and develop proposed changes to homeownership programs resulting from the Government of Nunavut’s Comprehensive Long-Term Housing and Homelessness Strategy.”

Mr. Chairman, public demand for the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s homeownership programs is significant. The corporation’s 2012-13 annual report indicates that the corporation received 448 new applications during the 2012-13 fiscal year. As of March 31, 2013, a total of 213 applications were pending or waitlisted.

The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to carefully review such issues as the current income thresholds for its programs, as well as the need to take into account such factors as local availability of skilled tradespeople in remote communities when determining allowable amounts under such programs as the Emergency Repair Program and Home Renovation Program.

The standing committee also recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation provide clear information to the public concerning options that may be available for low-income homeowners, especially seniors and elders, who may be financially unable to sustain the costs of homeownership.

The standing committee also recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation review its current residency requirements for its homeownership programs so as to achieve greater consistency with other territorial programs and entitlements. For example,

individuals are required by law to have been residents of the territory for a consecutive period of at least 12 months prior to being eligible to vote in a general election. It is not unreasonable to expect individuals to have lived in the territory for at least one year prior to being eligible to receive significant financial support under the government’s homeownership programs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 main estimates and 2014-17 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Well read. (interpretation) As we continue, are there any general comments? We will go to page L-3. If you would like a detailed breakdown of this page, it’s on pages N-IV-1, N-IV-2, N-IV-3, N-IV-4, N-IV-5, and N-IV-6. We’re on page L-3. If you have questions, please indicate clearly and raise your hand up high. Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, please proceed.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I just read here under Advisory and Administrative Services that the Nunavut Housing Corporation develops services for homeowners in the areas of finance, education, technical assistance, as well as coordinate housing-related advocacy efforts. So I wonder if you can elaborate what you mean on that statement and what kind of advocacy you do on behalf of homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking a good question. In order to have a clear response, I'll have Lori Kimball, the interim president, to respond through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In each of our district offices, we have community development officers that work in programs that provide support to homeowners. Homeowners are encouraged to contact our district offices and we provide counselling, if they have questions. If they're struggling as homeowners, we can review their financial situation and apply some expertise and insights into some of their different options. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, Ms. Kimball. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us what kind of programs they have that can help homeowners who are about to be evicted out of their homes. What kind of programs do you have that can help people like this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I misunderstood the member. I'm not sure if understood the member's question. I would like to ask the member

if she can clarify her question. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Angnakak, please clarify your question.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking about homeownership advocacy, homeownership education and technical assistance, and what they wrote in their business plan. I'm wondering: for homeowners who are about to be evicted out of their homes, what kind of programs do you have in place? What kind of outreach does the Nunavut Housing Corporation do to help people stay in their own homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. If I may, I will direct the question to the interim president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Interim President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Kimball.

Mr. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The types of supports we provide for homeowners are more in terms of the maintenance of their homes. Where we have low-income homeowners, we provide support in the form of the Homeownership Repair Program, the Emergency Repair Program, the Seniors and Disabled

[Persons] Preventative Maintenance Program, and the Seniors Home Repair Program.

Through our tenant engagement campaign, as we roll that out, we're also targeting homeowners in things like instructions for how to maintain your home and some maintenance supports that way.

In terms of direct financial support where our homeowners are running into financial issues where they have a bank mortgage, for instance, NHC is really outside of the scope of that. Now, if they have a mortgage with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we do what we can to work with the clients to try to keep them in their homes as long as possible. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. I know that the interpreters are very capable, but I would like to remind you to keep the interpreters in mind so that the public can also have the same understanding. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll slow down.

I'm wondering: how many houses has the Nunavut Housing Corporation acquired from the banks for people who can't own their own homes or have had to give up their homes due to bankruptcy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are very few units that have been taken back. In regard to the member's

comments, the largest number is two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mamianaq*, hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister could elaborate more on that. Surely, you guys must have some numbers on how many houses you have acquired through the banks when people can't pay their mortgage anymore. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for her question. In order to have a clearer understanding of the figure, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, I would like to have Lori Kimball respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of acquisition from the banks, when the banks approach us on a foreclosed property, we do try to encourage that it be offered for sale locally before Nunavut Housing would step in and acquire the unit. We do try to promote homeownership within the communities. If it's a homeowner who is losing the home, we do try to get another homeowner crated with that home.

As far as I can recall in the past couple of years, I believe we've only had two that we have acquired from the bank. That's just off the top of my head, but I

can get the exact numbers per year if the member would like that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I look forward to seeing that information. In terms of corporate governance, when you develop policies, in what way do you involve stakeholders or local housing organizations when changing or creating policies that may or may not affect them personally or at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member. There are different policies that are followed by the local housing associations and other policies as well. I can say in English that (interpretation ends) it all depends on the policy. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and slow down again.

Can you give an example, then, of what kind of policy you would be sure to involve the local housing organization with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. An example I can use is that I would look carefully into the local housing association. If we're going to be changing a policy on giving out houses that can be built in each community, the number of houses that would be given to a particular community, like housing allocations for the communities... If we had to change that policy, then we would work with the local housing associations to set up the new policy. I hope that makes sense. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that answer. Again with corporate governance, it talks about effective application of policy and standards, procedures, and program delivery. I'm wondering: at what point does the Nunavut Housing Corporation corporate governance overrule a local housing organization's board of directors on directions that they may have in how they want to conduct business? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. The policies that are used are approved by cabinet and those are the policies that the housing corporation follows. There is also a management agreement that is signed by the local authorities and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It's a detailed agreement as

to how they will work together. We work through that management agreement. If they don't follow the lines of the management agreement, then we would have to step in and look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the minister for answering. I want to go into a little bit further about what I'm getting at here.

In Iqaluit here, we had a board member who wrote me a letter and he wrote me a letter saying that he had resigned from the local Iqaluit housing organization. The reason why he resigned he said is because he felt that there's a lot of interference from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. They were interfering on how the local board should be running their organization, and he felt that this was so wrong that he could no longer remain a board member.

I'm wondering: how many times does the Nunavut Housing Corporation overrule local housing organizations' decisions on they're going to run their business in the community? I think there are a lot of us here who knows that that happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As I stated, we have a management agreement with the local housing associations with the housing corporation and they work through that management agreement.

I can just say that whenever that agreement is not adhered to for whatever reason, only when nothing else can be done, when there are no other steps to take, the housing corporation will take over matters on a particular subject. However, other than something really major and strange happening, the local housing authorities are the ones that handle it.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, Lori can supplement my response. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Definitely, NHC endeavours not to overrule the LHO management and board, except in exceptional situations where there are areas of concern.

In the situation of Iqaluit, I'm not aware of us specifically overruling something, but I know that there was a concern raised because the LHO was running a significant deficit for the year and had some financial concerns. We did have discussions with them about different options.

If ever a board member has an issue, they should be escalating it through our district office. If they're not happy with that answer and they really feel that the answer is not correct, we encourage them to escalate it up to our headquarters or directorate office and make sure that their issues have been heard. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Kimball, for that answer. I must say that I think the board member in question really did try and address this, and I think he felt very frustrated with the whole process that he had to go through. I don't he's the only one. I think there are other local housing organizations that feel that NHC is a bully at times. This has come to light to many of us here.

I think that's really something to look at and something that I know that I will be keeping my eye on because we want to have good relationships with the local boards and they need to feel that they have a say over how they do their business in their own community without having to always get prior approval from the Nunavut Housing Corporation in decisions that they want to make.

Let me go on now to district program administration. This is for homeownership and housing repair programs. I think, in the past, we talked about thresholds being rather low to access funding. I'm wondering if the minister has already looked at the thresholds that are in place to access these programs or if he is willing to review them. I feel that they are far too low. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Before I pass it on to the minister, I need to reiterate that there is a lot of concern out there. NHC might deny it, but there is a lot of concern. I've had numerous people come to me from numerous different communities about NHC bullying or being heavy-handed with

local authorities. (interpretation)
Minister Kuksuk, to the question.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. If I remember correctly, the income threshold being too low, I can say now that it is being analyzed and it is being worked on right now. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that answer. That's good to hear because I really think it deserves the review and changes really need to be made.

The other thing under that heading that I would like to bring up is the programs. For example, you have programs there for elders to access, yet they need to provide you with three years of financial statements or earning income and that. I'm just wondering if we can't perhaps make it as simple as, for example, when you apply for the government fuel subsidy. They just need, really, your latest income report from Revenue Canada and that's good enough. Why is that not good enough for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Can we make the application process to become simpler if we can? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Mr. Chairman, in regard to the question, we're looking for ways to improve it or make it smoother

for elders to access it, to have one form where they can just fill it out, a very simple form. It's called one form, a single form in English. We're trying to create an application like that. Through the Canada Revenue Agency, we would use that form to try and put together a form that is the least confusing. We're putting that together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's great to hear. We need to make new positive changes happen to go forward. Under the district technical administration, it says under your statement that you provide technical advice to homeowners. I wonder: how often are you working with homeowners in providing technical advice? What kind of technical advice are people asking for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again for that question. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have my deputy to provide a proper response to that good question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our technical staff at the three districts provide support to homeowners who are applying for the various programs; the Home Repair Program, the emergency repair. When we're first contacted, one of the things that our technical group does is look at

the work that's required and they prepare a scope of work to look at exactly what the technical details are and what's required, and they do that in consultation with the homeowner. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That brings to mind one thing. A family member of mine actually used one of your programs, and I got a much better understanding of how the process works.

If I can offer one recommendation, it is on your Emergency Repair Program. When you have that, it doesn't really on the application that you have to call the very day of the emergency. If you don't call the day of the emergency, if you don't call right that day, then I think you can't access that money. I don't know. I think that's something that I would advise you to look at again and see how you could make it work better.

Perhaps I better get clarification from the Chair. I'm wondering if I can... Are we going right through? Could I go right through? There's public housing. Yes? Okay. Thank you.

An Hon. Member: You've got 31 seconds.

Ms. Angnakak: I better hurry up.

What is the department doing to keep up with the growing demand of public housing units that require costly renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I'm sorry. I was dealing with papers and I didn't hear the question. I would like the member to repeat her question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) I'll stop the clock while you repeat your question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering: what is the department doing to keep up with the growing demand of public housing units that require costly renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for her question. Mr. Chairman, when public housing units are undergoing renovations, some are very expensive to renovate. The local housing association helps deal with those, whether or not they will be renovated. We do M&Is with respect to renovation of public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I had a lot more time, I would go more into that, but I'm going to go on to the next one. I have 16 seconds.

What measures have been implemented to address the high municipal costs

associated with public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various costs in different communities and we have to work with the Government of Nunavut. Maybe I can have Ms. Kimball elaborate on that so that we can get a good answer for the member. There are different things that we have to go through with respect to high costs and other stuff. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Ms. Kimball add to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The long-term comprehensive housing strategy that was put forward did identify that we need interdepartmental collaboration to address those issues. Definitely, we need to work with NAM, NAMA, and Community and Government Services to address some of the water concerns with some of the water rates. As well, obviously, development of new lots in the community, again, the same group needs to work together to minimize the costs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated in my opening comments, the rental arrears for the Nunavut Housing Corporation stood at \$18.5 million as of March 2012. I

wonder if the minister can update us today on what the current amount is owing on rental arrears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I can give you the figure as of March 2013 with respect to rental arrears. As of March 2013, the total rental arrears were at \$22.7 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, hon. minister. You heard correct, Mr. Rumbolt. Go ahead.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in my opening comments, I mentioned about your collection rate for public housing rent went from 84.4 percent in 2011-12 to an 80.1 percent collection rate in 2012-13. What is your current collection rate as of 2013-14? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. At this time, the local housing associations are being audited. It is not complete right now, so I cannot really answer that question right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that in a year, your arrears went up by \$5 million. I'm

assuming your collection rate may have went down. Can you describe what accounts for the decrease in your percentage of collections and why rental arrears are still going up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. From the question of the member, there could be many different reasons for that. There are many different reasons why the decrease in collections. I can't really give him one reason for his question. I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the minister can at least give us some of the reasons. I'm aware that he probably can't give us every reason why they're not collecting arrears, but are there some key reasons why the rental arrears are still continuing to rise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to my not having detailed information, if it's all right with you, Mr. Chairman, I will get Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Kimball, please respond to the question.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the annual report, for the past two years, we have actually included a very detailed table showing the collection activity by community as well as showing the number of months outstanding for an average month's worth of collections, how many months worth of arrears are out there.

If you look at that table, you will see it really varies community by community, which tells us that it does affect the different degrees of actions being taken on the collections, which is why we have been focusing on developing more standard policy and focusing on very specific prescribed steps in terms of how to approach collections, as well as developing different options for LHOs to use or to put up to NHC for us to pursue collections a little bit more aggressively.

The pilot projects that we have been running so far have been quite successful, so we will be rolling that out into more of the communities over time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question was going to be on the pilot projects. Can you indicate which communities these pilot projects have been undertaken? Can you describe their main elements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could use

an example. I could say that at the present time, in the regions, they are using a pilot project. There are six communities in the Baffin, Kitikmeot, and Kivalliq regions. There are two communities in each region that are using collection agencies that are being piloted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: which communities have these pilot projects been undertaken in? His answer was two in each region. Can he indicate which communities in each region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, it's this way: in the Baffin region, Hall Beach and Qikiqtarjuaq; in the Kivalliq region, Arviat and Baker Lake; and in the Kitikmeot, Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that there is a collection policy being worked on. I'm wondering when your new collection policy will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We expect that it will be ready for tabling during the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other than rental arrears, how many housing associations in Nunavut are in a deficit situation with the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Kimball to respond to that question so that the numbers will be correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of March 2013, we had five LHOs that had significant deficits and we had a number of LHOs with small surpluses and deficits that netted to \$56,000. In terms of significant deficits, we're really talking about five LHOs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the five significant LHOs with a large deficit, can you give me an approximate dollar value of these deficits? I guess my two-part question is:

what are the reasons for these deficits?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to have Ms. Kimball respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The largest deficit is with Cambridge Bay, sitting at \$1.9 million. The next one is Hall Beach, sitting at \$1.3 million; Arctic Bay, sitting at \$1.2 million; Rankin Inlet, sitting at \$838,000; and Gjoa Haven at \$366,000.

In reviewing the nature of how these deficits came to be, for the most part, it comes down to spending more money than what they're budgeted. We have looked at other LHOs that are able to manage within their budget. Under analysis for some of these, we have identified specific situations where decisions are made that actually ran them over budget.

We're trying to work more closely with our LHOs so that we can provide the financial guidance to help steer them around those situations and make sure that they're managing their budget accordingly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the key elements of LHO deficit recovery plans? What is in

their plans and how do you collect this money back from LHOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to this question as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We look at each LHO deficit one at a time and look at what were the causes of running into the deficit and what opportunities they have. For instance, if they're running a collection rate of 70 percent, is there an opportunity to more aggressively pursue their collections to offset their deficit?

If their collections is actually running quite smoothly, then we might look at... . If it was a maintenance function that was actually causing them to run into deficit, we would work with them as to how we can still achieve the maintenance function, but maybe relook at, if they're using contracting services or using staff, is there a more economical way to do that and still manage to provide the services that they need to provide.

We do take it one-off and we work very closely with the LHO to find a solution that will work and still make sure that we're not sacrificing the program delivery for our clients. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In cases where LHOs are in a deficit situation and you look at their issues and you find that they did everything they could to stay within the budget, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation provide the additional funds for their deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I have Ms. Kimball proceed? While they're dealing with numbers and percentages, and this and that reason, Ms. Kimball can provide the various details in her response, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): It's okay with me. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It really comes down to whether or not NHC has the budget to do so. So if we were to determine that, if we have the funding available, then we would consider that. If we feel that we would need to, then we might approach the Financial Management Board for supplementary funding. At this point, we haven't identified any of the existing deficits that would require that.

We are in a positive cash situation. We do work with the LHOs. If they do have a deficit, we can advance them cash to at least make sure that they can continue operating, even though they may be in a deficit situation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again still on the deficit issues, to what extent are members of LHO boards of directors consulted on the implementation of deficit recovery plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to ask if Ms. Kimball can respond to this question as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our community development officers from the district office would work with the LHOs and managers, and the LHO manager would work in consultation with the board chair. When we do develop a deficit recovery plan, it is presented to the local housing board and it should be approved by the local housing board as part of their budget approval process. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just ask one final question for now and give somebody else a chance.

In situations where you have a locally elected LHO board of directors, when you approach them with the deficit recovery plan, has there ever been a case where they have rejected your plan and, if so, what happens if they do reject your

recovery plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to this question as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Off the top of my head, I'm not aware of any ever being rejected by an LHO board. Generally, we are working in consultation with the LHO managers, which closely work with the chairman of the board. I'm not aware of that ever occurring. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. (interpretation) We're on page L-3. Mr. Hickes.

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

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

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

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 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. Savikataaq. 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. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 3:

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 Tuesday, June 3, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:58*

