



# **Nunavut Canada**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

**2nd Session**

**4th Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 23**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2014**

**Pages 1212 – 1258**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment*

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Hon. Monica Ell**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Health*

**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**David Joanasië**  
(South Baffin)

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Netsilik)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, October 28, 2014**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Ell.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon. Welcome to the House, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, and ministers. 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister Ms. Ell.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 062 – 4(2): Ebola Virus Disease**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to provide an update to the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut on the Ebola virus disease and the plans underway by the Department of Health.

First, I would like to reassure Nunavummiut that there has been no confirmed case of Ebola virus disease in Nunavut or Canada. The likelihood of an Ebola case in Nunavut is very low.

However, the disease was declared an international health emergency by the World Health Organization in August, when Ebola cases began to rise rapidly in several countries in western and central Africa. Recently, there was an Ebola-related death in Texas. It's the first case of Ebola virus disease in North America.

Mr. Speaker, the World Health Organization called on countries around the world to help stop and reverse the spread of Ebola. As a result, the chief medical officer of health has participated in discussions and planning with colleagues across Canada as this serious issue has evolved internationally.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a territorial working group was formed and developed the Nunavut Ebola virus disease contingency plans. This plan has been distributed to all health centres in Nunavut. The Department of Health has held meetings with stakeholders, including the Canadian Border Services Agency, the City of Iqaluit Emergency Services, and the Qikiqtani General Hospital, to coordinate emergency response planning for Ebola in a manner that will also be applicable to other public health emergencies in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reassure Nunavummiut that the risk of Ebola coming to Nunavut remains very low. Ebola does not spread easily from person to person. The virus is spread through contact with bodily fluids from someone

who is sick with Ebola. It is not spread through casual contact.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to protect against the Ebola risk is by following rigorous infection control procedures. The Department of Health has hired two infection control specialists specifically to assist and guide our health care professionals on our infection control procedures. The infection control specialists will be engaged in training our frontline health staff on proper infection control protocols.

Mr. Speaker, it is unlikely that a patient will present with Ebola-like symptoms at a health facility in Nunavut, but we are exercising extreme caution. Our Ebola virus disease contingency planning means we are preparing for the unexpected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Minister's Statement 063 – 4(2):  
Technical Professional Studies  
Scholarship Awarded**

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise in the House today to announce the recipients of this year's Technical Professional Studies Scholarship.

The Technical Professional Studies Scholarships are awarded each year by the Department of Community and Government Services to full-time students from Nunavut attending university, college, or technical school for programs in the following fields:

- Engineering
- Informatics
- Community Planning
- Business Studies
- Land Administration
- Firefighting, Training and Prevention

The Technical Professional Studies Scholarships are awarded to Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries and non-beneficiary students from Nunavut for four years of continuous full-time study, beginning with a scholarship of \$2,500 in their first year, \$3,000 in their second year, \$4,000 in their third year, and \$5,000 in their fourth year.

The 2014 scholarship recipients are:

- William Autut, Iqaluit
- Lisa Bachelier, Iqaluit
- Andrea Carter, Gjoa Haven
- Michael Johnson, Iqaluit
- Eileen Kilabuk Weber, Iqaluit
- Emma Kreuger, Baker Lake
- Mamatsiaq Kubluitok, Iqaluit
- Tony Lee, Iqaluit
- Adam Lightstone, Kingston, ON
- Keenan Lindell, Arviat
- Peter Aqqaq, Iqaluit
- Sean Noble-Nowdluk, Iqaluit
- Joefrey Okalik, Iqaluit
- James Pfiueger Anawak, British Columbia
- Monzoor Rana, Ottawa, ON
- Dheeksha Reddy, Ottawa, ON
- Angela Leah Rheaume, Toronto, ON
- Delilah Netser, Rankin Inlet

Mr. Speaker, our government understands the importance of investing in our students. Providing support for students to pursue educational opportunities and training is key to



building a highly skilled workforce in Nunavut and is a priority of our government in our *Sivumut Abluqta* plan. These scholarships will assist Nunavummiut in pursuing a post-secondary education in technical and professional programs, skills they can put to work here in Nunavut.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I would like to congratulate this year's Technical Professional Studies Scholarship recipients and wish them the best of success in their studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 064 – 4(2):  
Nuliajuk Addressing Coastal  
Arctic Mapping Challenges**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung. I will be making a statement about the Nuliajuk.

Mr. Speaker, the Nuliajuk is Nunavut's first and only research vessel dedicated to inshore fisheries and marine research. The research being done on this vessel is vital for supporting the sustainable use of Nunavut's renewable resources.

Mr. Speaker, as the Nuliajuk completes its fisheries research, the vessel is also providing critical information on marine habitat, geo-hazards, tides, currents, safe anchorage sites, and safe passages for inshore vessels.

Prior to the Nuliajuk's mapping program, there was limited information available on the depths, currents, and physical characteristics of the seafloor in these areas. Through research programs conducted from the Nuliajuk, we have been able to provide hundreds of chart corrections to the Canadian Hydrographic Service, including the discovery of a potentially new and better shipping corridor into Iqaluit for large ships. We have also provided these results back to adjacent communities to increase safety for community boats and harvesters.

(interpretation ends) In addition, the Nuliajuk's habitat mapping program has now identified greater areas of clam and turbot habitat around Qikiqtarjuaq, which will inform fisheries development in that area.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Nuliajuk is an important resource to Nunavut and will continue its marine research in Nunavut for years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 143 – 4(2):  
Reopening of Jonah Amitnaaq  
School**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the many

people in Baker Lake who have recently been working hard to ensure that students at Jonah Amitnaaq School have continued to attend classes despite the recent closure of the school.

Mr. Speaker, as you will be aware, an incident in September involving a fuel spill at the school forced the closure of the facility for a number of weeks. I am pleased to note that the school has recently reopened its doors and classes have resumed as normal.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to the school administration, the Municipality of Baker Lake, the district education authority, the Department of Education, and the Department of CGS for working together to find temporary space for the students during the recent period of closure. Most of all, I want to pay tribute to the students who continued to attend class and study hard despite the less-than-ideal circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, although the temporary placement of classes at the community hall resulted in the disruption of some events, it is important to remember that education is our first priority, and I am glad that finding space for students was the first priority of all parties.

Mr. Speaker, the incident also serves as a reminder of the importance of a close working relationship between the Department of CGS and the Department of Education with respect to the maintenance and inspection of schools across the territory.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

As I was saying, the incident also serves as a reminder of the importance of a close working relationship between the Department of CGS and the Department of Education with respect to the maintenance and inspection of schools across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to everyone in Baker Lake who pulled together on behalf of our community's students. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 144 – 4(2):  
Rehabilitation of Inmates in  
Nunavut**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the establishment of a wellness court within Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that in his response to my questions on this issue, the Minister of Justice indicated that he is working with the Department of Health to determine ways to assist inmates who suffer from mental illness.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the minister's decision to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* within such initiatives and I would like to note that traditional Inuit practice places importance on addressing underlying issues before disciplining an offender for their behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's proceedings, I made reference to the wellness courts that have been established in Yukon and in the Northwest Territories. These courts divert offenders who suffer from mental illness, addictions, or cognitive impairments away from standard sentencing.

In this system, offenders must take responsibility for their actions and express their willingness to work with service providers to address their own challenges. Relevant services and treatments are provided according to individualized wellness plans, which often include life skills development elements to promote self-sufficiency and confidence. Afterwards, the offenders would return to court for sentencing, where consideration would be given to an offender's participation in programs and therapeutic services.

Mr. Speaker, the establishment of a wellness court in Nunavut would allow the justice system to implement culturally relevant solutions to criminal activity in the territory. Mr. Speaker, in a territory where 74 percent of criminal offenders are returning to the correctional system, I believe that it is time for our government to consider a new approach in inmate rehabilitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 145 – 4(2):  
Concern Regarding Nunavut  
Medical Clients Receiving Health  
Care in Other Jurisdictions**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Fellow residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut, I wish you a wonderful day.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concern about how the Government of Nunavut is treating Nunavut residents who require medical treatment that is only available in the south.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will have received correspondence regarding a specific individual from my constituency, but they are not the only person in this situation.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that there is a considerable expense in providing frequent medical travel escorts and ambulance services to Nunavut residents who require ongoing medical care in the southern locations.

I further appreciate that it may make economic and medical sense to locate Nunavut residents in the south so that they have better access to the care they need. However, it does not seem right that the Government of Nunavut should then declare that this individual is no longer a Nunavut resident and transfer the responsibility and costs of their care to another jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that Nunavut doesn't have facilities that can provide all of the specialized services that are necessary to treat certain medical conditions. Nunavut residents who must leave their homes, families, communities, and culture to receive necessary medical care do not deserve to be deprived of their status as Nunavut residents simply because these services can only be provided in another place.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 146 – 4(2):  
Rising Crime Rates in Nunavut**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the people who are listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that affects Inuit throughout Nunavut and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the rate of crime in Nunavut has more than doubled since the territory's official establishment in 1999. However, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, has recently noted, the government still does not provide adequate services to address issues such as trauma, mental illness, and addictions.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated recently released its 2013-14 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society, which focuses on

the justice system in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I read this report with great interest and I believe that it addresses a number of important issues that could benefit from being highlighted in the House today.

The report recognizes that the majority of people who experience childhood abuse or neglect do not become violent offenders. However, the report also states that "a large proportion of those who are perpetrators of violence have experienced adversity in their lifetimes."

Mr. Speaker, it stands to reason that addressing social challenges among at-risk individuals before they resort to violent and illegal activities is the key to preventing crime in Nunavut.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the rate of crime in this territory will continue to increase until every Nunavummiq, young and old, has the necessary resources and services to help them cope with adverse life experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize that these issues cannot be addressed by the government alone. Partnerships must be formed between organizations, governments, local councils, elders, and families in order to prevent crime.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 147 – 4(2):  
Inspirational Workshop in  
Kugluktuk**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the organizations in my hometown of Kugluktuk that hosted a weekend-long event at the end of September to celebrate self-growth with stories, photos, and song.

Mr. Speaker, Susan Aglukark, the renowned Canadian recording artist who has won a Juno Award for her work, along with Ariel Tweto, a well-known Alaskan Inupiaq reality TV actor, were in Kugluktuk at the events as motivational guest speakers.

Susan Aglukark was part of a goal-setting workshop that involved youth and adults at the new youth centre. She also made a number of home visits and appeared on the local radio in a special talk show that incorporated her music.

Susan's last visit to Kugluktuk was in the mid-1990s. Her return brought out over 300 Kuglukturmiut to attend the various activities that the community had planned.

Mr. Speaker, as well, Ariel Tweto completed all the Kitikmeot community

tour by coming back to Kugluktuk to talk about what she saw and learned about the region. Ariel gave a motivational talk to over 200 people.

Mr. Speaker, Healthy Kugluktuk worked with Ariel to ensure every community in the Kitikmeot had the same opportunity to share in a meaningful and unique growth experience. Ariel and her tour manager had visited the Kitikmeot in March of this year and had been working since then with Healthy Kugluktuk to plan the next steps.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation, and Healthy Kugluktuk all came together to sponsor Ariel's all community Kitikmeot tour. Healthy Kugluktuk's work is sponsored by Health Canada through Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Many communities throughout Nunavut were also inspired about Ariel and Susan doing the Kitikmeot tour to promote self-growth, suicide prevention, and wellness. The event was very positive for all age groups.

I would like to thank the society for building a healthy Kugluktuk, for making this happen, and all those involved who selflessly volunteer their time to the wellness in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 148 – 4(2):  
Representing Nunavummiut**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and the people of Pond Inlet. Good afternoon to our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about representing Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, my colleague from Iqaluit-Tasiluk made an important statement concerning the issue of representing Nunavummiut in this House without fear or favour. Mr. Speaker, I find myself in the unfortunate position of having to make a similar statement today.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that no resident of our territory should be afraid to approach elected Members of the Legislative Assembly from time to time in order to ask questions and raise concerns.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in a very small jurisdiction such as ours, it is inevitable that all of us in this House have relatives and friends who are employed by the government in some capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the idea that a resident of this territory who works as a public servant could be punished by his or her employer for confidentially raising concerns with an elected MLA to whom they may be related or acquainted is offensive to me, and it should outrage all of us Members in this House.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear today. We all recognize the need for appropriate rules and guidelines

to be in place to guide the conduct of public servants. However, all Nunavummiut are entitled to representation in this House, and I join with my colleagues in again saying that muzzles and gag orders have no place in our democracy.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as we know from the many important questions that have been asked by my colleague from Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, the government's new ethics officer is not yet in place.

Although I am hopeful that this position will be effective in addressing concerns raised by public servants about issues in their workplace, we all have a responsibility as MLAs to hear the concerns that are brought to our attention by residents, and I want to make sure that I am going to continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I am calling on our Premier and the minister responsible for the *Public Service Act* to issue a clear reminder to senior managers in the government that all of our employees have democratic rights, including the right to speak with any elected Member of this House, without fear of reprisal, punishment, or retaliation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. Good day to the people of my community and Nunavut.

Today, I would like to recognize two individuals from the University of Regina. For your information, they help out with NTEP. They are with us here in the House and I would first like to recognize Dr. James McNich, (interpretation ends) Director of Saskatchewan Instructional Research and Development Unit, Faculty of Education, University of Regina.

>> *Applause*

Dr. Twyla Salm, Faculty of Education, University of Regina.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) From here, (interpretation ends) Dr. Brian Manning, who is our Director of Education Programs, Nunavut Arctic College.

>> *Applause*

And Andrea Burry, Nunavut Teacher Education Program Manager, Nunavut Arctic College.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the students and I am sure they are the very best students who are here paging. We have over there Christopher Eetuk from Coral Harbour and Benoit Malliki from Repulse Bay. I would like to welcome the two pages to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Jacque Larabie to the Gallery. Mr. Larabie is sitting right behind me.

Mr. Speaker, Jacque is a former resident of Cambridge Bay. He moved to Iqaluit several years ago with his family, wife and two kids. He currently works in Iqaluit as an accountant with a lot of our non-profit organizations. I bump into him occasionally at Tim Hortons. We have good conversation about the need for bookkeepers and accountants, and the importance of all of our non-profit

organizations to be in good standing to get their funding.

I invited Jacque to come to the House today to get an opportunity to see how we conduct our affairs, and I would like to ask you all to give the man a welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I welcome all the visitors to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

#### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 228 – 4(2): Conditions at the Winnipeg Medical Boarding Home

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

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from a number of constituents about the conditions at the Winnipeg boarding home, the Kivalliq Inuit Centre. My constituents have raised a number of complaints about the furniture, particularly the size of the beds. At the Kivalliq Inuit Centre, medical clients have complained that the beds are too narrow, small, and too hard to sleep on. Some of them are too high.

Can the minister indicate whether she is aware of this concern and, if so, has she looked into the possibility of having

double beds for medical clients instead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Mikkungwak for posing those questions. Usually, with the medical boarding homes, the facilities provided are provided by contractors. We don't tell them to get certain types of beds for the medical clients. Maybe it's best if you ask that question to the people who have the contract to run the Kivalliq Inuit Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recognize that the boarding home services are provided under contract. Can the minister describe how her department addresses concerns about the boarding home facility, such as small beds, chairs in the lounge becoming increasingly uncomfortable and having a bad odour, and the fact that the springs on the doors at the facility are difficult for patients to open them, especially those recovering from surgery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. As I indicated earlier, in the southern medical boarding homes in Yellowknife,



Winnipeg, Ottawa, Edmonton, and Iqaluit, the services are provided by contractors. What we are trying to do at this time is we are going to be having an individual who will be looking at these boarding homes to see if they are appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recognize that boarding home contracts are set for a number of years. However, it is important to ensure that the promised conditions of the contract are being met on an ongoing basis. Will the minister commit to looking into these issues and having them addressed as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. As I indicated earlier, we are going to be looking into these boarding homes and see if they are appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 229 – 4(2): Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, whose department

administers the provisions of the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Tax Relief Act*. It's a long name. The important legislation provides property tax relief for senior citizens and disabled persons in Nunavut.

Can the minister indicate approximately how many residents of the territory are exempted on an annual basis from paying property taxes under the provisions of this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I appreciate that she's concerned for the senior citizens and disabled of our territory. Unfortunately, I just don't have that level of detail in my information today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try number two and see if we can get some information here.

Can the minister indicate approximately how much property tax revenue the government forgoes on an annual basis as a consequence of granting exemptions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that

question. She's really testing my memory today and unfortunately my memory isn't that good when it comes to knowing exact figures. I can request that information from my department and provide it to Ms. Angnakak as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that commitment. Information that is currently on the Department of Finance website indicates that disabled persons and senior citizens are eligible to apply for property tax relief in each taxation year to be considered exempt. Senior citizens who turn 65 years or older at any point within the relevant taxation period for which they are applying are eligible for a senior citizens property tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the minister will agree that once you reach a certain age, you don't get any younger. Can the minister clarify if senior citizens are required to reapply each year for property tax relief under the provisions of the legislation or are seniors deemed to be eligible for the remainder of their lives once they reach the age of 65? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a loaded question. Of course, we're not getting any younger, unless someone in here has found the fountain of youth somewhere.

Again, I just don't have that level of detail and I'll have to get back to Ms. Angnakak with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 230 – 4(2): Crime Prevention Initiatives in Nunavut**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Justice.

On March 1, 2013, the minister of the day tabled the 2012-14 shared directional statement between the minister and the Nunavut RCMP commanding officer. This statement indicates that "the GN and RCMP will collaborate to find ways to prevent youth crime and address the challenges of young offenders."

I recognize that the department is currently reviewing information for Nunavut's Crime Prevention Strategy. Can the minister specify what additional initiatives his department is currently undertaking to prevent crime amongst youth in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as per my earlier statement, our staff conducted a tour of communities throughout Nunavut in searching for ideas on decreasing the crime rate. They have gathered the information and are now formulating a

report. I just don't know when the report will be completed, so I can't answer that question. However, they are working on a plan to reduce crime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The shared directional statement also indicates that "a firearms safety and education program will be implemented to focus on enhancing public safety and community wellness." Can the minister provide an update on the development of this education program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have been advised on this matter regarding the community of Kimmirut in particular. There have been courses on firearm safety and in applying the gun locks and the dangers of firearms. However, nothing has been implemented in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the department is committed to an ongoing partnership with the RCMP to address a number of issues in Nunavut. As the minister is aware, partnerships among a number of different departments and organizations will be necessary to ensure that all aspects of crime prevention are incorporated. Such aspects include, but not limited to, the promotion of health

and mental wellness, parental support, and educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if his department has initiated any discussions with other offices concerning the development of crime prevention programs within Nunavut and, if so, can he specify which organizations and departments he has had discussions with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, our staff conducted a tour of all the communities in Nunavut. Upon the conclusion of their report, we will be able to start anew from that point and determine the best course of action for all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 231 – 4(2): Concerns  
Regarding Nunavut Medical  
Clients Receiving Health Care in  
Other Jurisdictions**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I spoke about the situation where a Nunavut resident is forced to relocate to a southern location in order to receive health services which are not available in Nunavut.

Can the minister clearly explain the Government of Nunavut's policy with respect to the long-term residency of medical clients from Nunavut who are forced to relocate to another jurisdiction to receive health care? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Health, Hon. Minister Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice and I shall proceed to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

**Question 232 – 4(2): Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings.

My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, whose department is responsible for the government's Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Secretariat.

As the minister is aware, the central goal of the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy is to “maximize the participation of Nunavut, Inuit, and community-based businesses in Government of Nunavut contracting.”

A number of my constituents in the High Arctic have raised concerns with me about companies that have been awarded GN contracts, but do not appear to hire Inuit employees.

Can the minister indicate if his department's Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Secretariat investigates complaints in this area?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow Nunavummiut.

That is an excellent question and I will endeavour to answer him. Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member is talking about and asking about relating to the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy is something we have been working on continuously and regularly. It is not just our department which draws attention to the details inside of it. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated also deals with that. If there is an improvement that needs to be made or required, we will address it with them.

Relating to whether there are investigations, we do have a group, a board, to which people can address their concerns in relation to contracts that the government awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has stated that the government has been working closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on reviewing the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy.

Recent news reports have indicated that the review is scheduled to be completed by March 2015. For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister confirm if the review of the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy will be completed by March 2015? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this issue is quite complex. As per my earlier statement, one of our partners is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, whom we have partnered with in this initiative and we will continue to do so. I had tried to maintain this as a priority.

What I can indicate here is that the process has been slowed due NTI having more pressing issues causing us to wait. They may be dealing with other issues or their schedules are conflicting with our proposed meetings, as they haven't been communicating with us on this issue to date. However, our department continues to communicate with them and we will endeavour to move ahead on this

initiative. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received concerns from constituents regarding the Qulliq Energy Corporation's contracting practices.

In the external report to the NNI Policy Review Committee that was completed in 2013, a recommendation was made to apply the NNI Policy to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Can the minister indicate if this issue is part of the current discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is included in the review of these contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 233 – 4(2): Airport Safety in Nunavut**

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation]. My questions today

concern airport safety in security in Nunavut.

As the minister is aware, a significant number of airports in Nunavut, including Arviat's airport, currently lack emergency backup generators, which means that when the community suffers a power outage, the airport goes dark.

Earlier this year, my colleague from Hudson Bay raised the issue in relation to his community's airport. At that time, the minister indicated that he could direct his department to review the issue of emergency power generators.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of his department's work in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The emergency standby generators, yes, I agree with the member that not every airport does have emergency generators, but pursuant to the federal regulations, in Nunavut, the only two airports that are required to have those emergency generators in the airports are Iqaluit and Resolute Bay.

We did look into what it would cost to install other standby generators in some communities. The department is still looking into the cost of installing such generators. We're not simply looking at a generator to light a building; we're looking at making sure that everything that is in the airport, including the beacons, the CARS equipment, and all of that will be considered when

installing generators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate a timeframe, how much roughly it will cost per community, and when we can look forward to seeing emergency generators in our airports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost to install a gen. set in one airport would be quite extensive. At this time, I can't give a timeline of when we would be looking at or even if we would be looking at putting one in. We do have smaller gen. sets in other communities, but those generators are only big enough to provide things such as heating in the terminal buildings. They are not suited to generate the entire power that would be required to include runway lighting and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's department has been working on a 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut's airports. Will the minister commit to tabling this in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can get that information from the department, then I'll be able to divulge that information at the sitting. If not, it will have to be after the sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 234 – 4(2): Coordination of Poverty Reduction Programs**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has a number of programs to assist with food security that stretch across a number of different departments; country food programs, the cost of food study that the Department of Family Services is doing, and a number of other different programs, including the poverty reduction roundtable with other organizations.

My question to the Premier right now is: how is this government coordinating the various programs and projects that are the responsibility of these various government departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The programs are coordinated through the Poverty Reduction Secretariat with support from the Department of Family Services and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister responsible for Family Services mentioned the other day that they're doing an analysis of what is causing high prices. Although I understand the program is a federal one, there is currently a review by the Office of the Auditor General on the Nutrition North program.

A number of citizens have expressed concerns to me and I'm sure my fellow colleagues over the actual economic benefit to the average resident on accessing affordable, healthy food choices. What is the government's position on the impact of Nutrition North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, Nutrition North Canada is a federal program and that has been audited by the Auditor General of Canada. We really don't have any position on this until we see the final report coming out. Once that report comes out, I'm sure this government will have some opinions and possibly some action items to go along with whatever the report or whatever the Auditor

General comes up with in his report.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I understand the role of the poverty reduction committee that's working at helping our residents provide healthy food choices to their families and I do realize that the timetable for the Office of the Auditor General's report is looming, there are a number of different programs, including income support, that can help the average citizen of Nunavut have access to healthy food choices.

I understand that the Minister responsible for Family Services has committed to providing an evaluation of the Income Support Program. I was wondering what the government's work with other departments is. How is that coordinating with that evaluation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very good question. Mr. Speaker, when the Makimaniq Plan was developed, as my colleague has indicated last week, there was a meeting taking place to get the final draft of the action items, November 24 to 26 here in Iqaluit. Once the action items are identified... .

Within the Makimaniq Plan, there are six thematic principles that we are focusing on and of course, that's one of them, income support, healing and well-being, education and skills development,

food security, housing, and community economic development. Those are the themes we are going to be focusing on and those are the action items that the secretariat and the organizations and our partners are going to be looking at to eventually, hopefully reduce poverty in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavummiut are well aware, this government has made education a number one priority and it's not a quick fix, but down the line, that's one of the things that's going to solve most of our social issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 235 – 4(2): Status of Medical Clients Living in Other Jurisdictions**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, my questions are very similar to those that were asked by a fellow member earlier today.

Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine from the community of Sanikiluaq requires dialysis treatment which is not available in Nunavut. The Department of Health organized the necessary health services in another jurisdiction and helped my constituent find an apartment to live in. Now it seems that he is being pressured to become a resident of Manitoba and Nunavut's Department of Health no longer wants to provide for his medical treatment.



From information that I have received, all he has in his apartment is a bed and he is being left to fend for himself for the rest. As recently as three weeks ago, there was an announcement through the local radio asking for donations for the patient of money and household items.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame, shame!

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Can the minister clearly explain what options are available to Nunavut residents who are required to relocate to other jurisdictions in order to receive the medical treatment they need in order to stay alive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

#### **Question 236 – 4(2): Property Taxes**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “hello” to all the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last week, my colleague from Hudson Bay asked questions concerning the issue of property taxes. I want to also raise this issue today.

Mr. Speaker, I have also been contacted by a number of constituents who have recently received property tax assessments indicating that their assessed values have increased. However, the assessments do not explain exactly how the assessments were calculated.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that notices are provided to property taxpayers in Nunavut that clearly explain the assessment calculations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Baker Lake for the question. (interpretation ends) The assessed values for land improvement did increase this year since last year was the general taxation year. However, the assessed values had not increased since the previous general taxation year and that was ten years ago.

Normally what happens is that when the assessments are done, assessment notices are provided to each property owner throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, the minister appoints the members of the territorial board of revision, which hears complaints from members of the public concerning their property tax assessments and related matters. The minister also appoints the members of the Assessment Appeal Tribunal, which hears appeals of decisions made by a board of revision.

Members of the board of revision were appointed last year. Can the minister confirm who has been appointed to the Assessment Appeal Tribunal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the list of names right in front of me at this moment. However, I would be very happy to provide that information to the member once I get it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that information. It appears clear that the recent increase in the regional base rates for developed parcels has resulted in increases in the assessed values of properties across Nunavut. Can the minister indicate what the total increase in property tax revenues is expected to be as a result of this change? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. My department only does the property assessments. The evaluation of the property assessments are looked after by a different department in this government, the Department of Finance. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

#### **Question 237 – 4(2): Oil and Gas Development**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The government's current business plan states that, and I quote, "Nunavut has significant petroleum potential. Current estimates place its conventional undiscovered resources at 25 percent of Canada's conventional crude oil resources and 34 percent of Canada's conventional natural gas resources. Significant future exploration activity will be required for a more accurate picture of Nunavut's oil and gas potential..."

Can the minister indicate what actions his department is taking to support oil and gas exploration activity? 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. In regard to the question, at this time, with respect to the petroleum and fuel exploration, I don't have information in front of me. (interpretation ends) I will take that as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

#### **Question 238 – 4(2): Operational Expenses of Nuliajuk**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Environment.

I would like to question the minister on his statement today. At the very bottom, it says, "Mr. Speaker, the Nuliajuk is an important resource to Nunavut and will continue its marine research in Nunavut for years to come."

The minister stated, not here, but the minister said before that the operational cost of the Nuliajuk is \$1,224,000 for 2014. I would just like to ask the minister if that is money well spent. I'll start off there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have only identified just a few of the programs and there were various research programs undertaken. There have been various applications for the Nuliajuk to do their

research. There are researchers that do the ocean bottom study, those who study the flow of the ocean currents. I can tell you that I have no concern in regard to this issue. I believe and know that the money is well spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the response that I was expecting, that it is money well spent. I would like to ask the minister when the boat will leave Baffin waters and do some research in the Kivalliq or the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for the question. We are currently using the Nuliajuk's plan in Nunavut, but I'm not exactly sure when they will complete their research plans. At this time, I can't pinpoint when they would be passing through. However, what I can state here is that the list of activities is laid out in the research plans as well as which areas to conduct their research here in Nunavut. This is based on assessment of fish stocks for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to

tabling the Nuliajuk Research Vessel's plan for the next five years in what waters and what research it will do, if they are planning that far ahead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different types of research applications that are reviewed. There are also community initiatives to conduct fishery-related research or benthic species, as well as with arctic char research for commercial potential. There are many types of applications to research various species and most of the research proceeds.

I don't quite grasp the member's question as to which type of research the member referred to, but what I can respond with is that if a community makes a request to conduct research on animals they consider important, then it is obvious that some communities don't require the Nuliajuk to conduct their research, as community-based research is one of our priorities and we fund these projects as well.

With respect to the type of research the Nuliajuk conducts, I can provide more details on their research plans in the future and what research will be next. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 239 – 4(2): Public Housing Mobility Guidelines**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have questions for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

A number of constituents have raised concerns with me regarding mobility guidelines for public housing tenants. I am aware of situations where public housing tenants leave their communities for periods of time in order to attend courses or receive training. However, in some cases, the residents return to their community only to discover that their public housing unit has been declared vacant and been reassigned to someone else.

Can the minister clarify whether local housing organizations are responsible for developing their own mobility guidelines or does the Nunavut Housing Corporation require all LHOs in Nunavut to follow the same approach? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We work with local housing associations on various programs that are offered and these are generally governed by service contract agreements.

With respect to the question from the member about tenancy issues, if a tenant leaves their unit either to accept a job or to attend to a course, if they are leaving their unit for a set period of time, then

these are dealt with by the local association. However, the tenants themselves have to clearly indicate to the local housing association about their extended absence from their unit. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am concerned that current practices in this area will deter Nunavummiut from pursuing educational and training opportunities, especially when the opportunities may only be available in larger communities. Will the minister commit to having the housing corporation work with LHOs to review this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue is continually being dealt with. If the tenant is going to move or go to another community and if they are renting a public unit, they have to inform the local housing organization. The tenant can make an agreement for someone else to take care of the unit. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When residents are allocated public housing units, it is important that they be provided with clear information concerning the terms and conditions of their agreement with

the LHO, including terms and conditions regarding temporary absences from the unit and the ability of the tenant to break a lease. Can the minister clarify what information is provided to new public housing tenants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier on, we work with local housing organizations. The LHO has a policy they provide to the tenant. The tenant has to know that information. The LHO provides that information to the tenant through an agreement. They have to sign an agreement. Everything is identified and spelled out to the tenant. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 240 – 4(2): City of Iqaluit Contracting Process**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of CGS provides funding to the City of Iqaluit. It's under the contributions program, so I won't be able to ask it in the current committee meetings. There has been some recent media coverage highlighting an issue in the contracting process. Does the Department of CGS assist the City of

Iqaluit in their contracting process?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. As the member is aware, Iqaluit  
is a tax-based municipality and they  
operate as a municipal government.  
However, should they ask us to provide  
them with any kind of advice, we would  
be more than happy to help them with  
that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
The media response that I mentioned  
was very recently some work on a  
project that started prior to the contract  
being formally awarded. City council  
had to deal very quickly with that matter  
and did so.

Where I'm going with this is that the  
Government of Nunavut does provide  
funding to the City of Iqaluit. What  
accountability does the city have to the  
Department of CGS on the funding?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. I think I have finally caught  
onto what you were referring to in the  
media.

Again I have to reiterate that unless the  
city comes to us and asks us for advice  
or assistance for that matter, there is very  
little that we can do at this point. Thank  
you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
While I appreciate that, the portion of  
my second question that I was getting to  
was the accountability. What  
accountability or reporting requirements  
does the City of Iqaluit have to the  
Department of Community and  
Government Services on funding  
contributions that the government  
provides to them, and are those reporting  
obligations being met? Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. Every year, a formal audit is  
done of the city's finances and once that  
audit is done, it is then provided to us.  
Based on the information that we get,  
that we can gather from the audit, we  
will work with the city to ensure that  
they are meeting their obligations. Thank  
you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Oral Questions. I have no more names  
on my list. Member for Arviat South,  
Mr. Savikataaq.

**Question 241 – 4(2): Planning Process for Nuliajuk**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the environment minister again. Just a clarification.

The minister stated that they had the plan for the Nuliajuk and he stated that communities can or must request for research to be done. I just want clarification on whether they have a plan year to year or a multi-year plan or they make a plan after a request from a community for research. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to research and the Nuliajuk, if there is a request for research, there is usually a plan set up to utilize the Nuliajuk. However, if the communities would like to initiate their own research, then it would be best if the request came from the community because it shows that the community would like certain research done. They don't have to use the Nuliajuk specifically. That's what I was trying to say. They're not required to use the Nuliajuk if they don't want to use it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this is a Nunavut boat, research should be done all within Nunavut. I realize that there might be a lot more water and resources in the

Baffin, but there's all the other water too in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. Can the minister indicate if, in the very near future, this boat will be leaving the Baffin region to do any research in the other two regions of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated that we follow the Nunavut plans and we follow the fisheries plan, and that's where the Nuliajuk goes. The ship follows the plan. As I indicated this spring, we follow the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy and the Nuliajuk is going to be following the research in that order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy, is there anything in the strategy referring to the Kitikmeot or the Kivalliq or is the strategy just Baffin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not completed the strategy, but we will be completing it this year. As I indicated earlier, we're going to be using the strategy and we have been putting a strategy together for the year to date. The Nuliajuk is going to be sent

wherever that strategy indicates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired.

(interpretation ends) We will proceed to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Hickes.

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

**Committee Report 003 – 4(2):  
Presentation of the Report of the  
Standing Committee on the  
Review of the 2012-13 and 2013-14  
Annual Reports of the Information  
and Privacy Commissioner of  
Nunavut**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as an independent officer of the House, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is required to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

\*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 3 – 4(2) filed with the Clerk.

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts was appointed Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner in 1999. She was reappointed in March of 2010 for a third five-year term of office. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note for the record that she has served as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories since 1996, when that jurisdiction's legislation originally came into effect.

Mr. Speaker, since her initial appointment in 1999, the Information and Privacy Commissioner has submitted an annual report each year to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. In each annual report, she has presented a number of recommendations.

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* exists to achieve two broad goals: ensuring that the public has access to government information while preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information held by government departments and other public bodies. The Information and Privacy Commissioner plays a key role in maintaining this balance. In addition to providing independent reviews of decisions made by public bodies with respect to requests made under the legislation, the Information and Privacy Commissioner may offer formal comments on proposed legislation, as well as providing public education on the Act.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2012-13 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2013. Her 2013-14 annual report was backdoor tabled under the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules*



*of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* on August 13, 2014.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has overarching responsibility for the government's administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The government's 2012-13 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 6, 2013.

The September 18 and 19, 2014 appearances of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Government of Nunavut officials before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The Standing Committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

The Standing Committee notes that the government has made progress in some areas, including amending the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide the Information and Privacy Commissioner with clear authority to investigate privacy breaches. However, further action is required in other areas, such as the application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to municipalities and addressing the need for health-specific privacy legislation in the territory.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the thematic areas that the committee has addressed in its report:

- The public disclosure of information concerning Government of Nunavut contracting, procurement and leasing activities. The standing committee's report raises a number of concerns regarding the extent to which information concerning the government's activities and expenditures in these areas is accessible to the public.
- The application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to municipalities. At present, Nunavummiut have statutorily-prescribed rights under federal and territorial legislation concerning access to information and protection of privacy in relation to the institutions of the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut. However, there is still no legislative framework concerning access to information and protection of privacy with respect to the municipal level of government in Nunavut.
- The development of health-specific privacy legislation and the management of electronic health records. Nunavut is now the only Canadian jurisdiction without health-specific privacy legislation.
- The application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to local housing organizations. At present, local housing organizations are not covered by the territorial *Access to*

*Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

- Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in relation to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's discretion to extend the time for requesting a review.
- The ability of parties to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.
- The protection of personal information provided to third parties under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act*.
- Privacy audits of Government of Nunavut departments, Crown agencies, and territorial corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the Standing Committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the Standing Committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. 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 and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The report has been received by the House and will be entered into the record as read.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 042 – 4(2): Fuel Tax Rebate Program Summary Report for 2012-13 and 2013-14**

**Tabled Document 043 – 4(2): Interim Financial Report March 31, 2014**

**Tabled Document 044 – 4(2): Grants and Contributions 2013-14**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following documents:

- The Fuel Tax Rebate Program Summary Report for 2012-13 and 2013-14;
- The Interim Financial Report March 31, 2014; and
- The Grants and Contributions 2013-14.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 with Mr. Mikkungwak 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 15:43

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Good day to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the capital appropriations for the Department of Education, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we continue with the capital estimates for the Department of Education?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2015-2016 – Education –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree that Minister Quassa's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please allow the officials to go to the witness table.

For the record, Mr. Quassa, introduce your staff.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to appear before you. To my left is (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik (interpretation) and to my right is (interpretation ends) Manager of Capital Planning Barry Cornthwaite. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, we were on page G-3. The first member on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, we finished off just before I was able to ask my last question. I just want to talk about the busing issue again. I think there was a lot of discussion about the purchase of the buses. I'm wondering if the minister can just, I guess just to make things clear, describe the different types of contracts you have, what types of contracts you have in providing busing services in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question, as people need to comprehend them as Nunavummiut to understand how the process works. I thank the member for

raising that matter in his question. (interpretation ends) First of all, there are three different scenarios we can look at as to how a community can get a bus.

First of all, number one, the department hires a contractor through an approved RFP process to provide busing service, including operations and maintenance of the bus. In this scenario, the bus is the property of the independent contractor and not a GN asset, and I'll give you an example. Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, including Baker Lake, are examples of the communities that fall under that scenario. Just one more thing, the DEA is not involved in the contracting of the bus services in this scenario.

Number two, the department, again, purchases the bus, making it into a GN asset. Through an RFP process, we award the contract for busing service, including maintenance and storage. Once again, the DEA is not involved in the contracting of the bus in this scenario. Two communities I can give an example as to this process that is followed, which are Pangnirtung and Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), are examples of the communities that fall under this category.

Thirdly, the department, once again, purchases the bus, making it into a GN asset, but the DEA is responsible for hiring someone locally to operate the bus. The department provides the contribution agreement to the DEA to cover the cost associated with the bus and the DEA is responsible for the maintenance and storage of the bus. Again, to give you an example of which community follows that scenario, Cambridge Bay and Uqsuqtuuq (Gjoa Haven) are examples of the communities

that fall under this category. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. [Angnakak] is done. Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last time we sat here, the minister indicated that one of the criteria to get a new school is when they're at 85 percent capacity.

In last year's substantiation sheet for a new school in Arviat, the attendance for the three schools were at 83 percent, 95 percent, and 89 percent. A new school was allotted for 2015-16, but I can see now that it has been bumped away a year. Currently, the attendances are now at 83 percent, 96 percent, and 90 percent.

Can the minister indicate why the new school for Arviat was delayed by a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. We should know that the Department of Education, when we talk about 85 percent and we get the ball rolling in terms of capacity, a community could then make a request. However, we need to know, regardless of this, that communities have different schools.

Look at Arviat, for example, when they reach 85 percent capacity, we can arrange for the people who are in overcrowded schools to be moved to

another area or another school while still following the same grades.

As a government, we will be aware that we all try to follow through with what our policies are and what the communities agree to. As far as the construction season and when it starts, we really need to know annual budgets and capital projects that have been projected.

Now, one of the communities that are being looked at is Arviat, for example. It has been looked at closely in terms of when the construction of the new school could be initiated. The contract could be given out for Baker Lake, Arviat, and Igloolik, as those communities are being looked at.

We have stated previously on this subject matter that requests have now been put out for 2015-16 with the construction ending in 2017. That is my reply to the member, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On percent enrolment, the minister said that they can move people around if they are less than 85 percent to different grades in schools. That's my understanding.

The Levi Angmak School in Arviat was at 83 percent, the Qitiqliq High School was at 96 percent, and the John Arnalukjuak School was at 90 percent. That's enrolment capacity, so there's not much to move around. Either there's a typo or someone can't add because it says that for the Qitiqliq High School, 90

percent enrolment with a capacity of 187 students. Either there's a typo or it should be at 100 percent, at least in the math that I learned.

That's not the only delay. Can the minister just explain why the school projects in Arviat, Baker Lake, and Igloolik all have been pushed back and they are not being built when they were supposed to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps in relation to the statement by my colleague, if I can provide further details on the Qitiqliq (interpretation ends) Middle School, (interpretation) the capacity is standing at 96 percent that we are referring to here and this relates to 180 students who are enrolled at that facility with the total capacity standing at 187 students. I just wanted to clarify that to our colleague.

Furthermore, as per my earlier statement, (interpretation ends) tender documents (interpretation) have been prepared and sent out for competition. For the next fall, in 2015, the tenders will be completed. In 2017, our expectations are that the school construction could be completed in Arviat.

The third issue I want to speak to includes Arviat, Baker Lake, and Igloolik. They have had to be reviewed further in order to fine-tune the construction plans. In order to make these changes, we had to revisit it and part of the reason was the review of all

the Nunavut government capital projects. That is why they were placed into the 2017 fiscal year and we now have concrete expectations for the completion of these three community schools.

As an example, to use this analogy, if I were to drink some tea and every time I sipped some, the tea would continuously be refilled and I wouldn't be able to finish my cup of tea. That is where the situation finds us at. I wanted to make that analogy to help the member understand. Sometimes it isn't possible to convey Inuktitut thoughts completely into English, as the concepts may not be the same.

In order to convey the message, I will state it in English. (interpretation ends) Realignment (interpretation) has occurred for these school projects, particularly these three. To date, our department has about \$150 million in capital carryover funds and this is the reason why we had to revisit the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on the same line of questioning, at 85 percent capacity, that's when you start the process for a school. Does the department look at births? If you have an extraordinary amount of kids being born at the same time in the community, then you can anticipate that the kindergarten size will be fairly large. Does the department look into that at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do thank the member for Arviat for asking that question. We do annual projections. Of course, we do a look at births within the communities. We put all those into factors.

Again I would just like to reiterate that the percentage factor is not the only thing that plays a role in deciding the need for a new school. There are other factors that we also look at and certainly, the percentage rate is one of them. We look at the birth rates of the communities. We look at the economic development. We look at mining, for example. If there's mining in the area, again, that will put an influx of more people coming into the community. These are all various factors that we look at. I would just like to reiterate that the percentage factor does play a role also in deciding to get a new school.

Certainly, as I said earlier, we constantly consult with the communities, the hamlets, the DEAs, and the schools. There are various factors that come into play when we are going to decide on a new school or renovation for a community. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just clarify what he means by having to realign the schools and have them deferred for the committee just so we're all on the same understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I touched on this a little bit earlier and I stated that there was \$150 million in carryover. That's for the whole government, not just the Department of Education.

Maybe if I explain a bit further. The schools that will need to be built have not been taken out of the plan at all. However, as I stated, we anticipate that by June, we will be able to announce which schools we will be able to do. In looking at the three main schools, be assured that none of the schools have been taken out of the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a new school is going into a community or a renovation to expand a school, does the minister start talking with the housing minister right away and try to figure out staff housing issues? I imagine that may be a concern in some communities because a renovation to get a school bigger or a new school would probably entail having more teachers working there.

Has the minister started any talks in Arviat for more staff housing? I raised the issue earlier in the House too and there appears to be a government staff housing shortage in Arviat. Has he looked into that issue at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking about the lack of housing, which really affects the Department of Education. I thank him for asking that question.

Right now, in Arviat and other places, if we're going to be building a new school, we look at that. (interpretation ends) We include those in our [substantiation] sheets. In fact, in Arviat, we have identified two PYs that would need housing. Again, this is a normal practice that we carry whenever we are going to be building a new school with additional classes. We certainly include housing needs to these sheets that we provide. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the lack of staff housing issue in any community stopped the department from hiring any teachers anywhere yet? Has there been an incident where you could not hire a teacher even though you needed one in that community because there was no staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are still on capital estimates. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say that the school year always continues every year and certainly this is something that we don't want to do. Fortunately, that hasn't

stopped us in opening schools on school days on time.

We have experienced situations such as what we had seen in Whale Cove, where we had to delay a few days due to the fact that we couldn't get any housing for the four teachers that we had coming into the community of Whale Cove. We had other situations, for example, in Repulse Bay. We had a lot of shortages for housing.

I would just like to reiterate that we ensure that we open the schools on the day the school is supposed to start, but we have been very fortunate in that. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. May I remind the members that we are on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Capital Items. Following the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions.

Back in, I think it was, 2005 when they were doing the planning and design of the high school in Sanikiluaq, it was put before council to decide a location for the school. One of the driving factors to decide the current location was the fact that eventually, the school would be hooked up to the power corporation's grid for residual heat.

I'm just wondering if there's any money in your small capital for this year or future years on hooking the new high school up to the grid for residual heat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member from Sanikiluaq for that question. I don't have that information in front of me.

(interpretation ends) Excuse me. (interpretation) I apologize for coughing as I am fighting a cold, so please bear with my coughing.

I apologize for the fact that I don't have the information you raised in your question. Perhaps once we have the pertinent information, we can provide the explanation to the member. I can respond with that for now, but I can commit to researching exactly where we stand on this issue.

Further, with respect to the costing of the project, we can look into those figures and once the information has been provided, we will be able to present it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are on (interpretation ends) Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$37,755,000. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions, not too many. Firstly, I refer to the minister's statement yesterday that the Sam Pudlat School requires a new boiler. What is the timeframe for completing this replacement of the boiler by the Department of Education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for that question. At this time, I can't respond with any details on this question either, so I will have to get back to the member. His question is quite relevant and I will be able to explain it further when I have the information. I apologize for being unable to respond at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question relates to school additions and how it is done. Actually, you stated yesterday that your department works with the local DEAs as well as the Department of Community Government and Services if an addition will be added to the school. For example, the design of the addition or how it melds into the current school or the paint colour of the addition, these are the types of decisions made by the DEAs in conjunction with the Department of Education.

What authority does the DEA have? As an example, in Cape Dorset, the Peter Pitseolak School received an addition that included a sealskin processing area. It included a (interpretation ends) small engine repair (interpretation) shop that will be used for teaching students about small engine repair. I have been advised that they are already faced with a lack of space.

With this process of making additions to our schools, does the department canvass

the teachers or the students about the uses of the new spaces? As an example, since this is inside of school operations and it would become part of the school, what type of consultation is done to try to meet their needs? If I said it in English, (interpretation ends) end-users, how much consultation is done with the end-users of, for example, a renovation or expansion of school facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague from Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. I was actually in Cape Dorset just recently, so I am aware of the subject of his question. I was able to tour the school with the school staff as I toured the school with the principal highlighting the different areas.

At this time, as the Department of Education, we try to have written standards and as an example, (interpretation ends) set standard criteria. (interpretation) This applies to the proposed size and these criteria are laid out in writing. With respect to what we are discussing regarding Cape Dorset, that is the criteria we have to follow.

These are (interpretation ends) standard criteria (interpretation) laying out the size, such as the 150 square-metre requirement for sealskin processing areas. These criteria are followed for every school that has a sealskin processing area and that is the minimum size identified. So that area has to be 150 square metres. Other types of classrooms have different criteria. These are already set out, as we follow this criterion.

I will have to do more research on the consultation with the end-users. I do know there is consultation with the end-users who use the schools. Also, in our future, we will be reviewing these requirements further and that is obvious. That question is quite relevant, as I had an excellent tour of the school while in Cape Dorset, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. Actually, with that, I encourage the Department of Education to consider them wherever they are contemplating additions to schools or if there will be renovations of the schools.

The examples I used in my question have good reasons, such as the sealskin processing area and small engine repair classrooms. However, when the spaces are not large enough, the purpose for the space becomes meaningless. I wanted this issue taken into consideration by his department as well as the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was a comment, but Mr. Quassa, if you want to make a comment. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with my colleague in regard to this and we're in support of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. May I remind members that we are on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services.

Total Capital Expenditures.  
\$37,755,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Back to page G-2. Department Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$37,755,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Are you agreed that the Department of Education is concluded?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Do you have any closing remarks? (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank my colleagues for their questions. Your questions provide very good information. We need to provide that information to the communities to make sure that the communities know how the Department of Education operates.

Further, our government uses education as their priority. I would also like to thank the members for making education their priority. I would like to thank the members for approving the capital estimates of our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you very much. We have concluded the review of the Department

of Education. We will take a five-minute break while we prepare. Please remain seated during the break.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2015-2016 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, I would now like to ask Minister Kuksuk: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Good day, Nunavummiut. Yes, I do. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister Kuksuk, please introduce your officials. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Here with me today to my right is Lori Kimball, (interpretation ends) President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation) and (interpretation ends) to my left is Tim Brown, Manager of Policy and Planning. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation) Please

proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) The corporation's capital plan for 2015-16 consists of \$30,072,000 from the Government of Nunavut and additional funding of \$4,290,000 from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), for a total capital budget of \$34,362,000.

NHC capital funding remains at approximately the same level as last year for new public housing and staff housing construction, Modernization and Improvement (M&I) for NHC owned units, homeownership programs, the Mobile Equipment Fund, the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program, and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program.

NHC's funding for the Fire Damage and Replacement Fund will decrease by \$189,000 to \$2.6 million in 2015-16. This funding includes \$1 million for fire damage repairs and \$1.6 million for replacement units.

NHC has successfully tendered all 213 units planned under the additional \$100 million in the economic action plan funding from the federal government announced in 2013. Mr. Chairman, with regard to the management of this significant federal investment, I am pleased to inform my colleagues with changes to its procurement and project management methods. NHC has saved close to \$10 million in the delivery of the \$100 million in federal economic action plan funding.

NHC is planning on matching the \$10 million in savings with NHC's proposed capital funding for new public housing construction in 2015-16 to add up to another 45 public housing units to the 213 units originally planned under the federal funding. By matching these funds, NHC is demonstrating its commitment to doing more with less and is looking to increase the impact of the federal funding by building a total of 258 new homes.

As requested by the members, I am distributing the 2015-16 Projected Construction Report. You will notice that the following three communities have been allocated 15 units each: Pond Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Arviat. These three communities have been selected as per NHC's allocation methodology. They were prioritized for their land availability and infrastructure capacity to accommodate new construction.

Mr. Chairman, in *Sivumut Abluqta*, this government has made a commitment to ensure more affordable housing options and alternatives are available to meet the varied needs of Nunavummiut, including the needs of a growing elder population. I am pleased to report to this committee that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken steps towards meeting this commitment with recent changes to its homeownership programs.

In the past, a number of my colleagues have expressed concerns regarding the \$125,000 income eligibility limit applied across most homeownership programs. In response to these concerns, NHC is introducing new community-specific, index-able, and realistic income eligibility limits that better reflect the realities of life in Nunavut.

The corporation has also made changes to improve the delivery of its home repair and maintenance programs. In communities where there is no access to local skilled labour to do repairs, travel costs to bring in a contractor to complete repair jobs will now be considered over and above the program contribution. This change will apply to the Home Repair Program, the Senior Citizen Home Repair Program, the Emergency Repair Program, and the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program.

To help homeowners protect both their investment and our environment, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has increased the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program limit from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

The corporation has made it easier for seniors and persons with disabilities to get more assistance for repairs in their homes by increasing the limit of the Seniors and [Disabled] Persons Preventative Maintenance Program from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

I am confident that my colleagues will applaud these steps towards improving access from the Nunavut Housing Corporation to more effective homeowner assistance for Nunavummiut. These are important steps towards making homeownership a more widespread reality in this territory.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear your comments and to answer any questions you may have. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt, please proceed.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to the minister and his officials here today.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development concerning its review of the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for 2015-16 is \$30,072,000. The corporation's capital budget was \$30,230,000 for the 2014-15 fiscal year and \$28,841,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a range of programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. Members note that the corporation is proposing a budget of \$4,616,000 for its various homeownership programs in its 2015-16 capital estimates. The corporation's budget for homeownership programs has not changed since the introduction of the 2011-12 capital estimates. Members continue to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the adequacy of its funding for homeownership programs.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, members have previously raised concerns regarding the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation's

homeownership programs are benefiting long-term residents of the territory and residents in smaller communities. In July of 2012, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced changes to the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program. It indicated that "these changes aim to support the development of private real estate markets in Nunavut" and that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to "assist a greater number of Nunavummiut in becoming homeowners, and ensure fair access to assistance."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2012-13 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 20 of 2014. This report provides important information concerning the administration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs. For example, the report indicates that there were a total of 213 "pending and waitlisted" applications for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs as of March 31 of 2013.

However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports have not clearly indicated the extent to which homeownership programs are being accessed in large, medium, and small communities. The standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's future annual reports provide this level of detail which will help enable all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to better evaluate the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs are being accessed in small, medium, and large communities.

This information will also support the Nunavut Housing Corporation's review of such issues as the current income threshold for its programs, as well as the need to take into account such factors as local availability of contractors and skilled tradespersons in smaller communities when determining allowable amounts under such programs as the Emergency Repair Program and the home renovation programs.

The standing committee also encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the feasibility of providing support for our low-income seniors who are homeowners to purchase home insurance.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, in the Committee of the Whole's recent consideration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's main estimates and business plan, the standing committee has recommended 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 Nunavut for at least one year in order to qualify for the significant financial support that is available under the government's homeownership programs.

At present, information that is available to the public on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website concerning the

Tenant-to-Owner Program indicates that application documentation concerning this program is being updated. The standing committee urges the Nunavut Housing Corporation to clarify the long-term future of this program.

In March of 2010, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program. The corporation's proposed 2015-16 budget for this program is \$500,000. Information concerning this program indicates that "this is a five-year initiative with a goal of replacing one hundred heating oil tanks per year for a total of 500 oil tanks across Nunavut. This program is subject to review and/or renewal after five years and is expected to be renewed due to high demand." The standing committee supports the renewal of this important program.

The standing committee also encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work closely with municipalities and the Department of Community and Government Services concerning the issue of safe and environmentally responsible disposal of used heating oil tanks.

Mr. Chairman, the shortage of public housing in Nunavut's communities is an ongoing issue of significant concern to all Members of 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 current 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. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s implementation of its Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed capital estimates for 2015-16 include \$10 million in funding for new public housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s current five-year capital plan indicates that this amount is projected to increase on an annual basis in coming years, reaching a total of \$20 million in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The standing committee supports increases in investments in new public housing.

On March 12 of 2014, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled information in the Legislative Assembly which indicated that the corporation’s 2014-15 land acquisition and development activities were to prepare the construction of new public housing units in Iqaluit, Arviat, Whale Cove, and Sanikiluaq during the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation released a detailed background document concerning its new housing allocation system on September 9 of 2013. This document contains important information concerning current waiting lists and housing stock across Nunavut. The standing committee encourages the minister to table an updated edition of

this document in the Legislative Assembly, as it would serve to publicly substantiate the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s decisions regarding its 2015-16 public housing construction plans.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed capital estimates for 2015-16 include \$5 million in funding for new staff housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s current 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.” Members support the construction of new staff housing units in communities where there are shortages of housing for frontline staff, especially in the areas of education and health care.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2009-2010 and 2010-11 capital estimates included \$900,000 in funding in each fiscal year for the “secure storage” projects to safeguard housing materials in the custody of local housing organizations. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s current five-year capital plan indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will spend \$3.2 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year on new warehousing facilities for local housing organizations. \$3.7 million is projected to be spent on this initiative on an annual basis in subsequent fiscal years. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated that it plans to “replace one warehouse each year, beginning in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, on a prioritized basis.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2015-16 capital estimates

include \$2.6 million for its Fire Damage Replacement Program. The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to publicly clarify its policies and practices respecting emergency assistance to public housing tenants whose units have been rendered uninhabitable due to fire or other occurrences.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates include \$1,014,000 for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of vehicle reserve funds. The standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by LHOs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments? I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page L-3. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. At this time, I would like clarification on the minister's opening comments. On page 2 in the English copy, it states that "As requested by members, I am distributing the 2015-16 Projected Construction Report." I don't see the report here.

I would like further clarification on the (interpretation ends) projected construction report. (interpretation) Could you give us a brief overview of exactly what the projected construction report is and what it covers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his question on the (interpretation ends) projected construction report (interpretation) for 2015-16, we can elaborate on it a bit further. The report is quite lengthy. Maybe I can refer this question to Ms. Kimball, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The projected construction report lists the communities that we will be building in for 2015-16, along with the savings from the \$100 million project and the \$10 million from GN of capital for 2015-16. We will be able to construct 45 new units. That will be three five-plexes in Arviat, Pond Inlet, and Kugaaruk. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook**: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Let me just state that we should approve it. Thank you.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I take that as a comment. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions.

In my opening comments, I mentioned about the minister giving us information back in March about public housing units; this year's construction being in Iqaluit, Arviat, Whale Cove, and Sanikiluaq. Is this information still the same and these four communities are still the ones getting public housing this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it's not the same anymore. It changed. I will have Ms. Kimball elaborate on the changes from what was stated earlier. (interpretation ends) Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2015-16 construction, we had planned for four other communities. We have a land situation in Iqaluit. We have been working with the city. We were hoping that we would come to a successful conclusion on that, but we're not prepared to plan for 2015-16 at this point. We have deferred the plans for the City of Iqaluit. For the remaining communities, we received feedback

from the members concerned about the waitlist information.

We worked with our local housing organizations and have expanded the waitlist to include those with arrears to ensure that we capture the full extent of the need that is out there in each of the communities. As a result, different communities are now ranked higher. Number one was Iqaluit, number two was Pond Inlet, number three was Kugaaruk, and number four was Arviat, and that's what led to our decision for the 2015-16 allocations. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe they misunderstood my question. I'm talking about the... I guess I did say it right. Has this material been delivered to all the communities? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I'm sorry I didn't hear the question. Could he rephrase it, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: have the materials for this year's construction been delivered to the communities during the sealift season? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, yes, the (interpretation ends) ship, supply, and erect contracts (interpretation) have been awarded, except in Iqaluit because of the land situation. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the minister tabled this document in March, he stated which communities that public housing would be going in and now this has changed according to Ms. Kimball. Have the communities been consulted about the changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): The 2013-14 plans outlining our work haven't changed at this time. For the fiscal year 2015-16 plans, the changes have been made for that year. Hopefully my response is understandable, if the member didn't understand that earlier. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I wasn't clear enough in my initial question and I'll try to be more clear.

The minister stated on March 12, 2014 that the Nunavut Housing Corporation, for 2014-15, had land acquisition permits for acquisitions and development activities for Iqaluit, Arviat, Whale Cove, and Sanikiluaq. If I understand correctly now, there is no

construction scheduled for Sanikiluaq this year. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. No, that isn't the situation there. At this time, there will be construction of a five-plex unit in Sanikiluaq (interpretation ends) for 2014-15. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You scared me for a minute.

>> *Laughter*

I'm assuming, earlier, you stated that the construction material was delivered to the communities and contracts have been awarded. Who were the contracts awarded to for the communities that are getting public housing this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The contracts are won by different contractors in his community. That is what I can tell the member on what is occurring in his community. There is a unit to be built in Sanikiluaq. Further, the end date for the completion of the unit is set for December 2015 for that five-plex and Kudlik Construction has the contract to construct that unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that there were only two other contracts for this year other than Sanikiluaq. Who was awarded the other two contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. The other contractor would be Inukshuk Construction based out of Arviat that would build the five-plexes. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I got an answer that time to that question or not.

I noted that materials are probably on the beaches in the community and some communities are just getting their last sealifts now. What is the plan of construction of the public housing for this year? Will they be starting construction now or will it be put off 'til springtime? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) He did indicate the other contractor, Inukshuk Construction, but Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can have the question redirected to Ms. Kimball, as she has the details contained in her binder related to the last question posed by the member. With your forbearance, I would ask that

she respond to that question. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The five-plexes that were tendered were tendered subsequent to the ten-plexes that were tendered under the \$100 million. They went out quite late in the spring and, in order to ensure that we could get the lowest bids possible, we did allow an extended period of time for the completion date in those tenders. The tenders do have contractual completion dates of December 15, 2015. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more question on a bit of a different subject, on the M&I programs. The money allocated to M&I has not changed a whole lot over the years, yet our public housing stock is aging and it's getting to the point that the M&I dollars are not enough to carry out the necessary repairs on these older units.

What is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan in order to either replace these older units in our communities or repair them to the point where they're quite liveable in today's modern age? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For renovations that we provide funding under the M&I program, we look at the

condition. If they could be renovated using that program and become habitable again and be quite satisfactory, then that can still be done.

While there is a major critical shortage of housing that exists, we have worked with the local housing associations. We have local contractors working on them. We have been able to have discussions with the local housing associations that say that they feel that these could become liveable again when renovated. Whenever they could be through that renovation program that we have, they will be done through that program. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress for the day.

**Chairman**: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist the officials to leave the witness table.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

#### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

#### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of the meetings scheduled for tomorrow starting off at nine o'clock with the Standing Committee on Legislation in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for October 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
- Bill 4
  - Bill 6
  - Bill 7
  - Bill 8
  - Bill 9
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

This House stands adjourned until  
Wednesday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:04*

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Members, I invite  
all of you to join me and the  
Commissioner of Nunavut at 6:00 p.m.  
in this Chamber for the investiture  
ceremony for John Amagoalik into the  
Order of Nunavut.

# **Appendix – October 28, 2014**



# **Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

## ***Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Fall 2014 Sitting**

**George Hickes, Chair  
Alexander Sammurtok, Co-Chair  
Tony Akoak, MLA  
Pat Angnakak, MLA  
Joe Enook, MLA  
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Isaac Shooyook, MLA**

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## Introduction

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The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides for the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term of office.

Under section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on her office's activities.

Elaine Keenan Bengts was reappointed for a 5-year term as Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner on March 4, 2010. This is her third term as Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Her current term expires on March 10, 2015. Ms. Keenan Bengts also serves as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories enacted the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in 1996. As the Information and Privacy Commissioner has noted:

“The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was created to promote, uphold and protect access to the information that government creates and receives and to protect the privacy rights of individuals.”

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and regulations made under the Act were inherited from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999. Between 1999 and 2012, a number of minor amendments to the legislation were made to address conflicts with other territorial statutes. The changes that have been made to the regulations since April 1, 1999, have been housekeeping in nature. The list of public bodies has been amended to reflect changes to the organizational structure of the government.

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, received 1<sup>st</sup> Reading on June 1, 2012. Bill 38 received Assent on June 8, 2012. These amendments provided clear authority for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to undertake privacy-related reviews concerning personal information held by public bodies. The amendments also established a statutory requirement for public bodies to notify the Information and Privacy Commissioner where a material breach of privacy has occurred with respect to personal information under their control. The amendments came into force on May 11, 2013.

As the Information and Privacy Commissioner has noted, her office is mandated to:

“...conduct reviews of decisions of public bodies and to make recommendations to the Minister involved ... the Information and Privacy Commissioner has the obligation to promote the principles of the Act through public education. She is



also mandated to provide the government with comments and suggestions with respect to legislative and other government initiatives which affect access to information or the distribution of private personal information in the possession of a government agency.”

Standing Committee hearings on the annual reports of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly provide an opportunity for the issues raised in each report to be discussed in a public forum.

Government accountability is fostered through the requirement in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* that the government table a comprehensive response to the Standing Committee’s report and recommendations within 120 days of its presentation to the House.

In 2005, the Government of Nunavut began the practice of tabling an annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The government’s most recent annual report on the administration of the Act was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 6, 2013.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2011-2012 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 26, 2012. The Information and Privacy Commissioner appeared before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on April 18, 2013. Officials from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) subsequently appeared before the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* was presented to the Legislative Assembly on May 14, 2013. The Government of Nunavut’s response to the Standing Committee’s report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 6, 2013.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2012-2013 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2013. The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2013-2014 annual report was backdoor tabled under the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* on August 13, 2014.

The September 18-19, 2014, appearances of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Government of Nunavut officials before the Standing Committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The Standing Committee’s hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors’ Gallery. Transcripts from the Standing Committee’s hearings will be available on the Legislative Assembly’s website.

## Observations and Recommendations

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**Issue: Government of Nunavut's *Privacy Management Manual***

In its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

“A copy of the *Privacy Management Manual* (previously referred to as the *Privacy Management Framework*) will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.”

As of September 1, 2014, this document had not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. It should be noted that the Government of Nunavut's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy* and *Privacy Breach and Incident Policy* are available on the website of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

In response to Members' questions concerning this issue during the Standing Committee's September 19, 2014, hearing, the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs stated that:

“The *Privacy Management Manual* applies to the whole government ... at this time, it is being reviewed on an interdepartmental level and this manual is nearing completion, and, upon completion, the document would be tabled. At this time, it is still under review but the foundation will serve to assist our staff across the government.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's new *Privacy Management Manual* be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.

**Issue: Disclosure of Government of Nunavut Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activities**

An ongoing issue that has been raised in the context of annual hearings on the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the public disclosure of information concerning the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of the Government of Nunavut's departments, Crown agencies and territorial corporations.

In her 2013-2014 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Another issue that has come up on numerous occasions again this year, after a bit of a hiatus, is how the Government of Nunavut awards contracts, especially the large, multi-million dollar, multiple year contracts. While Nunavut has done some work with respect to proactive disclosure of these contracts, this government is far behind many provincial/territorial governments in disclosing information relating to contracts, particularly large contracts. While information is available online, the amount of information is sparse and, when it comes to the very large contracts, really not very helpful.

Nunavut is a small jurisdiction and everyone has a connection in one way or another. A very high percentage of individuals and companies rely, to a very large degree, on government contracts for their livelihood. For this reason, interest in the contracting process is very high and much higher than it is in other jurisdictions. The general public in Nunavut is generally far more aware about who is getting government contracts than in other parts of the country where the pool is larger. There are lots of questions about why certain individuals and businesses are successful in obtaining government contracts and others are not.

The public is, at times, going to question the hows and the whys of certain awards. The more of this information that can be made proactively available, the less room there is for any suggestion of favouritism, nepotism, fraud or other allegations of improper considerations. The larger the contract and the longer its duration, the more important it is to ensure that the process and the outcome are open. The Government of Nunavut, generally, can and should do a much better job of this.”

In its October 29, 2010, report on the review of the 2009-2010 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Standing Committee reiterated a recommendation that the Government of Nunavut table annual reports in the Legislative Assembly on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for all of its Crown agencies and territorial corporations. This recommendation was reiterated in its March 5, 2012, report on the review of the 2010-2011 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. This recommendation was reiterated in its May 14, 2013, report on the review of the 2011-2012 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

In its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

“In the interest of increased transparency, accountability and effectiveness, Ministers responsible for public agencies and territorial corporations have issued directives to provide important information to the Government of Nunavut and Nunavummiut, including the tabling of yearly reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities.”

However, as of October 24, 2014, the most recent annual reports to have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of Crown agencies and territorial corporations were as follows:

- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: 2010-2011 report tabled on October 23, 2012
- Nunavut Development Corporation: Not yet tabled
- Nunavut Housing Corporation: 2012-2013 report tabled on March 20, 2014
- Qulliq Energy Corporation: 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 reports tabled on October 21, 2014
- Nunavut Arctic College: Not yet tabled

In response to Members' questions concerning this issue during the Standing Committee's September 19, 2014, hearing, the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs stated that:

“The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* is a very fine balance between ensuring the right of access to information and protecting the privacy rights of individuals and their organizations who deal with the government. That's what, as government, we've been trying to find that right balance. From my opinion, yes, there should be more information provided and we are quite open in the discussion with our [Information and Privacy] Commissioner in providing that right balance ... there is a fine balance that we are trying to find, and this is a work in progress that we will continue to do.”

## **Standing Committee Recommendation #2:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut table, in a timely manner, annual reports in the Legislative Assembly on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for all of its Crown agencies and territorial corporations, including the:

- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Nunavut Housing Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, as part of its ongoing review of procurement, contracting and leasing practices, work co-operatively with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to identify ways in which to expand the range of information that is publicly disclosed in this area, and that the Government of Nunavut's 2014-2015 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* account, in detail, for progress in this area.

**Issue: Application of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation to Municipalities**

An ongoing issue that has been raised in the context of annual hearings on the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to Nunavut's municipalities.

At present, Nunavummiut have statutorily-prescribed rights under federal and territorial legislation concerning access to information and protection of privacy in relation to the institutions of the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut. However, there is still no legislative framework concerning access to information and protection of privacy with respect to the municipal level of government in Nunavut.

During her November 24, 2011, testimony to the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“... the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Nunavut are the only remaining jurisdictions that don't include municipalities under their access to information and protection of privacy legislation.”

In its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

“The Government of Nunavut is committed to providing information on consultation and collaborative training initiatives involving municipal employees, Government Liaison Officers, the Municipal Training Organization and other parties in its annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Government of Nunavut will continue to work collaboratively with the [Information and Privacy] Commissioner, the Municipal Training Organization, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the municipal administrations to ensure accountability and transparency throughout all levels of government in Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut will examine options for ensuring municipalities meet requirements of transparency and openness as expected of any level of government in Nunavut.”

In her 2013-2014 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“I am aware that the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy office in the Department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is working, in particular, with the City of Iqaluit on these issues. Some progress is being made but it is very slow and is focused only on the larger communities at this point.. Once again, I would encourage the Government of Nunavut to engage municipal

and community governments to establish and implement privacy policies as a starting point.

It should be noted that the current business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-2017 fiscal year is to “provide support to the municipalities in implementing access [to information] and [protection of] privacy principles, based on the successful implementation within the City of Iqaluit.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3:**

The Standing Committee affirms its support for ensuring that appropriate legislative frameworks concerning access to information and protection of privacy apply to the federal, territorial and municipal levels of government in Nunavut.

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s next annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* account, in detail, for its progress to date in working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Municipal Training Organization and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the issue of access to information and protection of privacy at the municipal level in Nunavut.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s next annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* account for collaborative training initiatives involving municipal employees, Government Liaison Officers, the Municipal Training Organization and other parties.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in partnership with appropriate stakeholders, examine such options as introducing access to information and protection of privacy legislation that is specific to municipalities and/or having the territorial *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* apply to municipalities in a manner that would address such operational concerns as the ability of municipalities to respond to historical access requests. The Standing Committee suggests that such concerns could be addressed through such means as explicitly providing that the legislation does not provide a right to access in respect to information that was generated by municipalities prior to an effective commencement date.

**Issue: Application of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation to Local Housing Organizations (LHOs)**

A new issue that emerged during the Standing Committee's September 18-19, 2014, hearings on the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly is the application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to Local Housing Organizations (LHOs).

In her 2013-2014 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

"While the Nunavut Housing Corporation is named as a public body in the regulations [under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*], LHOs are not. This run of issues surrounding LHOs, however, suggests to me that it is time to make it absolutely clear that these organizations do, indeed, fall under the Act and have obligations and responsibilities under the Act. There is, in my opinion, nothing that would weight against such specific inclusion - these are public organizations, whose leadership is most often appointed by the Minister, which are funded exclusively or almost exclusively with public funds and which are given policy direction by a public body (the Nunavut Housing Corporation)."

In response to Members' questions concerning this issue during the Standing Committee's September 19, 2014, hearing, testimony from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicated that:

"We've actually done a lot of work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation in the recent past regarding LHOs and the accessibility of their information. Technically, LHOs are not currently considered a public body under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. However, due to their management agreement[s] they have with NHC, they are required to comply with all access to information and protection of privacy provisions which include the allowance of access to information of all records held by LHOs, as well. The NHC will process requests made to LHOs for all records that they are in custody and control of. We are working toward, hopefully, their eventual inclusion under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in some form."

**Standing Committee Recommendation #4:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that Local Housing Organizations be designated as public bodies under Schedule A of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations* no later than April 1, 2015.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that copies of all management agreements between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Local Housing Organizations be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first sitting day of the winter 2015 sitting of the House.



**Issue: Development of Health-Specific Privacy Legislation, Electronic Health Records and the *Nutaqqavut* Health Information System**

An ongoing issue that has been raised in the context of annual hearings on the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the development of health-specific privacy legislation for Nunavut.

In her 2009-2010 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Nunavut needs to begin the process of creating separate legislation to deal with privacy of health records. The country is charging into the era of electronic health records and electronic medical records. Every jurisdiction in Canada, other than Nunavut, has now either passed health specific privacy legislation or is developing such legislation to address the very real privacy concerns raised by electronic records. The issues are significant and complicated. All Canadian jurisdictions are talking about an integrated electronic health record system to allow any person in Canada to be able to access their electronic medical records, no matter where they happen to be in the country. The challenges of such a system are enormous, but there seems to be the will in most of the country to make it happen, even if it is still many years away ... this is an issue that Nunavut needs to address, sooner rather than later.”

In her 2013-2014 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Nunavut is now the only Canadian jurisdiction without health-specific privacy legislation. The Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Prince Edward Island have all passed health-specific privacy legislation over the last year and are in the process of implementation.”

In its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

“The Department of Health will be reviewing health-specific privacy legislation in other jurisdictions. Based upon this review, it will consider how to move forward in this area. Nine privacy and security directives with respect to electronic health records have been completed, approved and implemented.”

It should be noted that the current business plan of the Department of Health indicates that one of its priorities for the 2015-2016 fiscal year is to “begin [the] legislative process to introduce health-specific privacy legislation.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #5:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's formal response to this report contain a detailed timeline for the development and introduction of health-specific privacy legislation for Nunavut.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that copies of the Department of Health's privacy and security directives concerning electronic health records be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Department of Health's *Privacy Impact Assessment* concerning the *Nutaqqavut* Health Information System be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.

**Issue: Protection of Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act***

The Auditor General of Canada's 2011 *Report to the Legislative Assembly on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut* noted that:

"The [territorial] *Adoption Act* requires the Department to consult with the applicable Aboriginal organization for the child (that is, the Aboriginal organization of which the child or his or her parent is, or is eligible to be, a member) when a private adoption is taking place. The Department has interpreted consultation to be contact through written correspondence. As such, the Department writes to one of the three regional Inuit associations (which represent the interests of Inuit and are affiliated with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the organization that represents the rights and interests of *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* beneficiaries) to inform it that an adoption plan has been developed for an Inuk child to be privately adopted, usually by a non-Inuit family. This provides an opportunity for the Regional Inuit Association (RIA) to respond with an alternate plan of care for the child, should it choose to do so.

We found that the files we reviewed contained a copy of a letter to the RIA with the appropriate information. However, we were informed that the Department has never received a response from an RIA. Furthermore, when asked during the audit whether they were aware of this correspondence from the Department, two of the three RIAs had no knowledge of it. The Department has made little effort to follow up with the RIAs to determine why it has not heard back from them."

The territorial *Child and Family Services Act* also contains provisions concerning the role of Inuit organizations in relation to such areas as child protection.

The Standing Committee notes that the personal information provided by the government in such circumstances is, by its very nature, likely to be sensitive. However, it has not been clear what agreements and/or understandings and/or protocols are in place between the government and designated Inuit organizations to ensure that such personal information is subject to appropriate safeguards after it has been provided to the designated Inuit organization.

Following its April 18, 2013, hearing on the 2011-2012 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Standing Committee reported back to the House on May 14, 2013. In its report, the Standing Committee recommended that the Government of Nunavut:

"... in partnership with the Information and Privacy Commissioner, work co-operatively with designated Inuit organizations to develop appropriate guidelines to ensure that safeguards are in place with respect to personal information that is provided concerning matters arising under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act*."

The government's formal response to the report of the standing committee was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 6, 2013. The response stated that:

"The Department of Family Services understands the importance of protecting personal information and commits to working collaboratively with both the Information and Privacy Commissioner and designated Inuit organizations to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect personal information concerning matters arising under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act*. Initial work will involve consulting with designated Inuit organizations to determine privacy safeguards currently in effect. Consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner to assess current practices and to determine if additional safeguards are required will also take place. The Department of Family Services anticipates completion of this recommendation by the fall of 2013."

This issue was revisited during the standing committee's September 2014 hearings on both the 2012-2013/2013-2014 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut and the Auditor General's 2014 *Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*.

The Standing Committee was disappointed at the government's lack of progress in this area. Testimony provided by the Information and Privacy Commissioner during her appearance before the Standing Committee indicated that consultations with her office had not yet occurred.

Testimony from the Acting Deputy Minister of Family Services indicated a lack of awareness of the issue.

In response to Members' questions concerning this issue, the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs stated that:

"... in our discussions with Family Services, they are supportive of moving forward the creation of some form of an information-sharing agreement with designated Inuit organizations that they share personal information with. This will be done in collaboration with the Department of Justice and our department. The department will seek input from the Information and Privacy Commissioner before moving forward with implementation of any agreement."

**Standing Committee Recommendation #6:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in partnership with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, work co-operatively with designated Inuit organizations to develop appropriate guidelines to ensure that safeguards are in place with respect to personal information that is provided concerning matters arising under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act*; and that this work include a review of the necessity and effectiveness of the current statutory provisions.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the government's response to this report provide a detailed action plan and timeline for the completion of this work, including a detailed description of specific departmental accountabilities.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the government's formal response to this report account, in detail, for the specific factors that resulted in its failure to meet its fall 2013 goal of completing consultations in this area.

The Standing Committee notes that this issue is also being addressed in its *Report on the Review of the Auditor General's 2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*.

**Issue: Ability of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to Appeal a Decision Made by a Head of a Public Body Under Section 36 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to the Nunavut Court of Justice**

An outstanding issue from prior years' annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly concerns her ability to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Section 37 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

Appeal of decision of head

37. (1) An applicant or a third party may appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Notice of appeal

(2) An applicant or third party who wishes to appeal a decision of a head shall file a notice of appeal with the Nunavut Court of Justice and serve the notice on the head within 30 days after the day the appellant receives the written notice of the decision.

Written notice to third party

(3) A head who has refused an application for access to a record or part of a record shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt of the notice of appeal, give written notice of the appeal to any third party to whom a report was sent under paragraph 35(b).

Written notice to applicant

(4) A head who has granted an application for access to a record or part of a record shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt of the notice of appeal, give written notice of the appeal to the applicant.

Parties to appeal

(5) An applicant or a third party who has been given notice of an appeal under this section may appear as a party to the appeal.

Information and Privacy Commissioner not a party

(6) The Information and Privacy Commissioner is not a party to an appeal.

In her November 24, 2011, testimony to the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“ ... I would like that power, to take something to court, because when I make a recommendation, it's because that's what I believe the Act says and if it's not followed, there are some instances. I don't think I take everything to court where

my opinion wasn't followed, but there are some instances where I think that it would have more impact, where we really need to know whether my interpretation is correct or the public body's interpretation is correct, and a court can do that. So yes, I would love to have that option, many of my colleagues do, and it's used within reason and on occasion to take governments to court on recommendations. I think it would be an extra tool in my toolbox and very useful."

In her April 18, 2013, testimony to the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"Where the Information and Privacy Commissioner has order[-making] power, it doesn't make sense. It's like appealing their own decision to a higher court and that just doesn't happen, that's just not the way things work, but where I make only recommendations it makes more sense for that to be considered."

The Standing Committee notes that systemic barriers, including financial resources, generally preclude private citizens from exercising their notional right under section 37 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to appeal a decision by a head of a public body to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

In its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

"The Government of Nunavut agrees that it could be a useful tool for both the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the GN to obtain clarity on important matters where significant disagreement exists. Furthermore, the GN agrees with the Information and Privacy Commissioner that by enabling the Information and Privacy Commissioner to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 to the Nunavut Court of Justice, an obstacle for applicants who currently see it as overwhelming to appeal themselves would be removed. The government is willing to consider including this in a future amendment to the Act."

**Standing Committee Recommendation #7:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* within the next twelve months that would permit the Information and Privacy Commissioner to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

**Issue: Information and Privacy Commissioner’s Discretion to Extend the Time for Requesting a Review**

An outstanding issue from prior years’ annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly concerns her ability to extend the time for requesting a review under the Act in certain circumstances.

In her 2009-2010 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“... it would be my recommendation that the Information and Privacy Commissioner be given discretion to extend the time for requesting a review in appropriate circumstances, except in the case where the issue involves a third party objection to the disclosure of information. It may also be appropriate to consider extending the time for asking for a review from 30 days to 45 or 60 days.”

In its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

“The Government of Nunavut agrees that providing the [Information and Privacy] Commissioner with this discretion may prove to be beneficial for both the public and the Government of Nunavut. The Department [of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs] will include this amendment in future amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. As the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was amended in June 2012, with the amendments brought into force as of May 10, 2013, the immediate priority will be to commence a review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations*.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #8:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* within the next twelve months that would address the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s recommendations concerning her ability to exercise discretion to extend the time for requesting a review under the Act in certain circumstances.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of the review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations* that was referenced in its formal response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ May 2013 *Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*.



**Issue: Privacy Audits of Government of Nunavut Departments, Crown Agencies and Territorial Corporations**

In her 2013-2014 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“My office has seen a steadily increasing number of requests for review and privacy complaints over the years. As you may know, my work as the Information and Privacy Commissioner is currently done on an “as needed” basis. In addition to my role as the Information and Privacy Commissioner in Nunavut, I also continue to hold the same position for the Northwest Territories in addition to running a busy legal practice in Yellowknife.

While this configuration has worked well for many years, it is becoming more and more difficult to stay on top of all of the files arriving in my office and to deal with everything on a timely basis. There is little time to be proactive or to keep on top of new initiatives and programs that might benefit from my input.

In light of this, I have made the decision to discontinue my law practice so that I can concentrate more fully on the work of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and I anticipate that by the end of 2014, my work will be focused solely on my role as the Information and Privacy Commissioner in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This will mean that I will have more time to deal with requests on a more timely basis and to address, more pro-actively, those issues that arise from time to time.

While I do not believe that a full-time Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nunavut is yet justifiable, I do believe that it is time to begin planning for the day in which it will not only be justifiable, but required. It may not happen in the next year, or even the next three years, but certainly within the next five or six years, there will have to be some serious thought about a permanent office in Nunavut with a full time Commissioner/staff.”

During her September 18, 2014, appearance before the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“There are lots of projects that I would like to involve myself more in. For example, with the new authority given to me under the privacy provisions of the Act, I would like to be able to undertake privacy audits of various departments and organizations to see how they’re doing and make suggestions for improvement.”

In response to Members' questions concerning this issue during the Standing Committee's September 19, 2014, hearing, testimony from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicated that:

"We believe that privacy audits are actually a great tool in determining risk factors to breaches in privacy that, as frontline employees who are working towards the function of service, we don't necessarily see ourselves. We believe that doing privacy audits could be a great tool and the expertise of the Information and Privacy Commissioner would be a great asset for us moving forward [in] ensuring that we're living up to our expectations under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*."

**Standing Committee Recommendation #9:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut co-operate with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in undertaking at least one formal privacy audit of a department, Crown agency or territorial corporation during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and that the results of the privacy audit be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.