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**Thursday, March 5, 2015**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

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(Netsilik)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
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**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Thursday, March 5, 2015****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, 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, Mr. Mikkungwak.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. People in the Gallery, members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) our staff and interpreters, welcome, as well as our pages. Welcome.

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 109 – 4(2): DEA Office Manager Training**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also

thankful to see my colleagues today. To my fellow residents in both Aggu and Igloolik, I hope you have a wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to know that district education authorities play an important role in our education system. The district education authorities work with the school principal and their communities to develop school programs that reflect local needs and values and incorporate Inuit culture.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to helping the district education authorities and their staff gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to administer their organizations effectively and efficiently. This year, once again, we received funding for DEA office manager training through the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Program Development and Training Fund.

This March, we will be holding training sessions on financial management for DEA office managers in all three regions. Contracted bookkeeping firms, assisted by the DEA development officers and the DEA development coordinator, will deliver training on:

- financial accountability procedures,
- office procedures,
- office manager roles and responsibilities, and
- managing department funding programs through contribution agreements.

Mr. Speaker, my department and the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities have worked together to develop a DEA training manual so that

DEA staff and elected members have a comprehensive reference guide. The manual is available on the Education website and we will soon be sending hard copies of the manual to the DEA offices.

Providing high-quality training to ensure that the DEAs have the skills needed to meet the financial reporting requirements under the *Education Act* and the *Financial Administration Act* is important.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure this training and the manual will help the DEAs fulfill their important role in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 110 – 4(2):  
International Women's Day –  
March 8, 2015**

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sunday, March 8, is International Women's Day, and on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I rise today to recognize and honour all women.

On International Women's Day, we celebrate women, their lives and their contribution to their families and community.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut has many women working in the traditional arts, in health, in law, in politics, and in some relatively new areas like mining. We

must also recognize the work of those women raising a family, volunteering in their communities, and helping support their extended families and elders.

Mr. Speaker, on this day and throughout the year, the government recognizes that women have the right to be respected as persons, the right to be treated with equality in the workplace, and that they contribute to the economic, cultural, and political development of our society.

Mr. Speaker, my department continues to work with the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council, which organizes important campaigns for women's rights, including the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women and Girls. We value the important role they play in promoting basic human rights and respect for all women. Qullit has spent the last six months bringing a coalition of agencies, including government, together to create an action plan to reduce violence that each agency is committed to delivering.

For International Women's Day, Qullit has organized a Nunavut-wide photo competition and exhibition entitled, "Nunavut's Women at Work," to show the diversity of women's work throughout Nunavut. You are invited to the opening of this exhibition at the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum, here in Iqaluit on Sunday, March 8, 2015, at 1 p.m.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I invite Nunavummiut to mark this important day in their community with a personal reflection on the importance of women's lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 111 – 4(2):  
Improvement to Medical Travel  
for Unilingual Inuktitut Patients**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I rise today to provide an update on the Medical Travel Policy review recently undertaken by the Department of Health. Effective immediately, unilingual Inuktitut language speaking patients aged 65 and older will now have an escort, if they so wish.

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

>>Applause

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): If they wish to have an escort, they will be able to have an escort all the time.

Mr. Speaker, the Medical Travel Policy was revised in June 2013. The previous minister committed to evaluating the impacts of those changes after one year. The Department of Health recently completed the review. The goal was to examine the use of the policy and Health was specifically asked to look into the impacts relating to escorts for elders. In the past, if there were interpretive services available outside of Nunavut, it was expected that patients would use those services.

In respect for those who have come before us, today, we recognize that escorts for unilingual elders participate in the continuum of health care for elders. This includes reducing stress

during travel and ensuring comfort before and after appointments.

Mr. Speaker, the department will continue to ensure that medical travel continues to meet the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 112 – 4(2):  
Climate Change Adaptation for  
Northern Decision Makers Course**

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform members of the new "Climate Change Adaptation for Northern Decision Makers" course developed by the Department of Environment.

This course informs participants about climate change impacts and how climate change considerations can and should be incorporated into decision-making across all government sectors. The pilot class, which ran in November in Iqaluit, was well received and included participants from many GN departments, as well as key decision-makers from Nunavut's Crown corporations, and municipal planners from the City of Iqaluit.

The course was developed with funding support from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Climate Change Adaptation Partnership and was developed as part of a series of territorial climate change



training courses with the governments of Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is experiencing impacts related to climate change, which could have both positive and negative consequences for Nunavut. (interpretation ends) We are working to better understand these impacts and help find ways to better prepare and adapt to these changes. By developing training material such as this course, Government of Nunavut employees will be better equipped to understand how climate change is impacting their work and how they can incorporate adaptation into their decision-making. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 3. Members' Statements. Thank you. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 245 – 4(2): Congratulations to Chad Eetoolook**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate one of my young constituents, Chad Eetoolook.

Mr. Speaker, Chad is a hard-working grade 8 student in Gjoa Haven, and he along with young Nolan Norbert of Kugluktuk were winners of the Kitikmeot Shoot for Success Contest. Both boys won an all-expense paid trip to Edmonton, Alberta to meet and cheer for the NHL team, the Edmonton Oilers.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, this contest is an example of a positive incentive for young Nunavummiut to attend school and excel in education.

Chad Eetoolook had an attendance rate of 95 percent or higher, an example of deep commitment to education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all Nunavut students to do their very best in their educational journey. I would also like to express my support of such innovative initiatives, big or small. I thank our teachers for their dedication to our students across our territory.

Lastly, I wish to encourage the engagement of parents in their children's education. Education starts in the home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Chad Eetoolook on this exciting milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 246 – 4(2): Appreciation to the Women in her Life**

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings today to the residents of Netsilik, along with my mother and family.

With International Women's Day approaching us, I wish to remember my maternal grandmother and paternal grandmother, including my mother and my sisters, both older and younger, as women and I want to share in remembering women in our lives.

My maternal grandmother, Kakiarniut, who reared my mother and has steadfastly taught her grandchildren the traditional roles of women in Inuit society, wanted us to be culturally strong and to be able to provide clothing upon marriage and to our children. I am extremely grateful to Kakiarniut for that.

Qakuqtinniq, who is my mother's godmother (midwife), was extremely capable and an excellent seamstress, who taught my older sister and those of us younger siblings who caught her last few years.

My paternal grandmother, Napatchie, unfortunately passed away as she passed on when I was too young to remember. However, due to the stories I have heard about her from my father, I heard she was a very loving woman, who really cared about him, although she was my father's stepmother. My older sisters also related their experiences with their grandmother, as they caught her last few years, that she had a profound love for her grandchildren. Due to having that loving personality, many descendants have received them from our father who learned that from her.

This is what I wanted to make my Member's Statement on and to express my appreciation publicly. They are forever in my thoughts, as their strength ebbs through me as I stand here.

On that day, my younger sister will be celebrating her birthday and I wish her a happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 247 – 4(2):  
Pangnirtung's New Senior  
Administrative Officer**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I say "good day" to the residents of Pangnirtung. You are often in my thoughts one and all.

I am pleased to rise today to share this good news and celebrate with my fellow Pangnirtung residents on the conclusion of the local hamlet's search for a new SAO, as they have selected a new SAO who is now on site commencing his duties. The Hamlet Council of Pangnirtung faced difficulties in retaining an SAO.

Let me start with first thanking Ed Murphy, who provided the expertise to administer the hamlet, as he was sent by CGS to Pangnirtung to handle the role while the search was underway.

I also wish to extend a warm welcome to the successful candidate, as he isn't new to the north. I welcome Shawn A. Trepanier to the community. He is married. The Pangnirtung hamlet council went through serious financial issues. The new SAO faces a difficult road ahead to resolve his challenges.

Let us express our appreciation as northerners to employees who take on these leadership roles and to provide encouragement to them so that they can look after the municipalities.

I urge everyone to welcome him to the community as the new SAO for the hamlet in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 248 – 4(2): The Northern Residents Deduction Program**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Iqaluit-Tasiluk and all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, Nunavummiut have the highest cost of living in the country of Canada. In 1987, 27 years ago, the Government of Canada, through the Canada Revenue Agency, created an excellent program that provides assistance in the form of tax support to the residents of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in a small way, the Northern Residents Deduction Program helps offset the high cost of living for Nunavummiut and puts money back in the pockets of our residents. We applaud the Government of Canada for this program which recognizes the extreme high cost of living in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at an event recently, I was speaking with people in my constituency and they raised concerns to my attention about the high cost of living in Nunavut. My constituents understand that inflation

has increased significantly since 1987 and they feel that it is high time for the Northern Residents Deduction to be adjusted for inflation. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the position of my constituents on this matter. Following the concerns expressed to me by these constituents, I went home and researched this matter in detail.

I consulted the Nunavut Economic Forum discussion paper issued in 2007 and available for viewing on the Nunavut Tunngavik website. Mr. Speaker, at that time, the discussion paper cited the cumulative rate of inflation at 64 percent. In other words, the Northern Residents Deduction has decreased in value by 64 percent in the 20-year period from 1987 to 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I also consulted the Bank of Canada website. I discovered that the Bank of Canada has their own inflation calculator on their website. The Minister of Finance has often alluded that I have a calculator, but I sometimes use other people's calculators as well, which I used to calculate the cost of living on this program. According to the Bank of Canada inflation calculator, the Northern Residents Deduction Program should have been increased by a further 20 percent from 2007 to today.

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

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In effect, since 1987, inflation has decreased the value of this program by 84 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I asked myself, “What can be done about this?” Clearly, based on the past 27 years, if we continue to be silent about the inflationary impact on this program which is very important to Nunavummiut, then it is likely that it may be overlooked by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Members of this House recognize that this program helps working families to make ends meet. In fact, we all recognize that every little bit helps in addressing the high cost of living in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the Government of Canada has many priorities and is working on significant initiatives that will benefit our constituents here in Nunavut.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 398 – 4(2): Cultural Orientation for Social Workers**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct

my question to the Minister of Family Services.

As we know, the Department of Family Services has counsellors. Do these counsellors work with the social workers in the communities? Does the minister work with these social workers? That’s my first question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps he could repeat the question so that I could have a better understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for [Uqqummiut], Mr. Keyootak, can you repeat your question, please.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m asking the Minister of Family Services if she works with social workers who come here to help the people. Do they assist the social workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, we hear about events related to social workers who travel up to Nunavut, as temporary social workers have to be hired to provide social services in the communities. The division is managed by the (interpretation ends) director of child and family services (interpretation)

and looks after the temporary hires.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are apprised of any issues related to social workers who arrive into Nunavut, especially social workers without any cultural sensitivity training dealing with Inuit.

Has your department developed any cultural orientation training or is that completely off the radar? We want social workers who are culturally sensitive and who can socialize with Inuit. We want to see social workers with better understanding of our lives up here, primarily due to the reason that the temporary social workers who arrive into our community have no idea of the way Inuit live.

Does the department have any plans to change this temporary social worker hiring policy to include Inuit cultural orientation so that social workers who arrive into communities are aware of the cultural differences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The temporary social workers who arrive in Nunavut are provided with cultural orientation with the package developed by the (interpretation ends) Department of Culture and Heritage (interpretation)

and we work with them to ensure they are aware of the cultural differences.

We also meet with the Nunavut Arctic College administration to review the social worker curriculum and to strengthen the cultural components.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information we hear stems from various media, such as the CBC radio phone-in shows that air grievances or concerns people have, especially related to Inuit perspectives on certain issues.

We have often heard people call in that their community doesn't even have social workers originating from the north, and that is why I am raising questions on this issue. I want to know if plans have been developed to provide more homegrown social workers.

When temporary social workers arrive, they tend to be from countries surrounding the equator, people with no history of cold weather or long winters.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Due to reasons such as this, people who call into these shows have even stated that the term used in Inuktitut, *inuliriji*, shouldn't even be used since they know nothing about Inuit, our culture and our lands.

Perhaps the department should hire people with better understanding of the north or people used to living in the

arctic regions. Can the minister look into this issue and see if improvements can be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for sharing his concern and other people's concerns. Yes, we are reviewing the social worker shortages and have started to try and produce more homegrown workers.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College (interpretation) is our partner in this process to try and develop the curriculum to be more in line with the needs. There is a social worker course offered in Cambridge Bay that lasts for two years.

The barriers we have run into are slowly being removed in getting social workers. The other factor members have to remember is the tremendous workload social workers have, which can result in stress, and turnover rates are atrocious. Let me use an example. Every community has two police officers, but generally only one social worker is responsible for that community. The stress levels in these two positions are about the same, including their legal responsibilities.

Different types of improvement initiatives are being discussed to try to get social workers locally. These are the types of initiatives we are working on and I can only respond to my colleague with that. Thank you.

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

### **Question 399 – 4(2): Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimanituqangit**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Nunavut. I want all of my colleagues to know I am genuinely happy today that I have the opportunity to ask questions.

I have yet another question related to my question from yesterday due to my urgency on this subject. I am directing my question to the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister (interpretation) responsible for Inuit traditional knowledge.

Yesterday, the minister responded with this answer when I queried you about this issue. His response was that this originated in 2003 with the directives laid out in the *Pinasuaqtavut* Mandate. Although I get that, I wonder if you can provide more information on the original meaning behind those words. I hope my question is understandable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

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

I expressly thank my colleague from Quttiktuq very much for his outstanding questions on this subject of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*. Ever since he

became a Member of the House, he continues to raise the profile of traditional knowledge. It's also obvious in the Chambers that he is our resident expert when it comes to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangat* and I derive much pleasure and lessons from his questions, hence my continual appreciation for his questions on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, his question yesterday referenced different components that I included in my response, and I believe he is asking about more details about that mandate document and the meanings behind the wording.

With respect to Inuit traditional knowledge, or IQ, or to use the language system as an example, the government was directed to implement the mandate within its operations, with a committee established to provide advice. The Inuit Language Authority was also established by the government that directs the language requirements pertinent to each (interpretation ends) department, (interpretation) as several departments are impacted. The Department of Family Services and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, amongst others, have to incorporate IQ into their operations.

IQ has different meanings depending on the department mandate, as IQ is also compartmentalized. That is the area I was trying to clarify yesterday in my response. Depending on the department, there are different requirements to be incorporated, whether it is related to social services or education, as each department is implementing specific directives aimed at their mandates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): I also thank the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister (interpretation) for clarifying the situation in my mind as I now have a clearer understanding and his response was clear.

Nevertheless, my enthusiasm for this subject remains and I am fervent in my desire to protect our elders who are still with us, to try to have this implemented while they are still alive. There are still components of IQ related to social interactions, as Inuit had social rules from time immemorial.

The legislation we follow today stems from the NWT government and it is chock full of barriers. I want to see a system that Inuit can adapt to and the legislation needs to be changed. With that being the situation we face today, the reasoning behind my continued push applies specifically to spousal relations and instances of discord betwixt them. Inuit had traditional counselling methods tried and true over generations. Our elders held the role to counsel both older and younger couples.

This plan to incorporate traditional knowledge, what is your position on this issue and have you developed any plans on incorporating this next fiscal year or will the plan be commenced at that time, perhaps in the year 2020? I am unsure of the date, but I wonder if your department has finalized the plans to incorporate traditional Inuit knowledge into government operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question as that is a clear question. Yes, the issue you raised in your question lies with the one (interpretation ends) Act (interpretation) that was enacted in the Northwest Territories and no amendments have been implemented.

I see eye to eye with the need to review this carefully, as you pointed out, so that it will better fit Nunavut and to start incorporating the IQ aspects to this area that our people want integrated into this system. I totally agree with the need for a comprehensive review. However, I would need the support of this government to work towards that and this includes our colleagues in the House, as the review of the legislation and the preparations for this may occur in the future. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I completely understand the response. I also understand that you support this and I look forward to it.

Now, this is an issue I am fervent about since this government continually states their position that they are here to fulfill the wishes of their residents. We want to see more Nunavut-specific legislation that our residents can abide by.

I don't hold any enmity towards any of the cabinet ministers. I am extremely proud of their legislated mandates, but again I am opposed to the antiquated legislation, just for clarity. This legislation is the bane of Inuit and has to be changed. Due to these realities, I want to reiterate that I am not opposed to this government. Nonetheless, I have picked today to showcase the need to change that draconian legislation by making an official protest that can be seen by the audience and this government.

Once I have sat down after this question, I will not return to the Chambers today as a sign of protest. This is for the information of the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I completely understand his comments. However, I didn't hear a question and I do apologize if he did have a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 400 – 4(2): Handicap Van in Rankin Inlet**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister is aware that medical clients in Rankin Inlet who are in wheelchairs or with other physical disabilities have no



designated vehicle to take them to and from their appointments at Rankin Inlet's health centre.

Can the minister describe what transportation support is currently available to individuals with limited mobility so that they can get to and from the Rankin Inlet Health Centre for their medical appointments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will want to look into this issue further and see exactly where we stand on this. I can't respond to his question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Rankin Inlet Health Centre doesn't have its own handicap van to provide transportation to clients with limited mobility. However, there is such a van in the community that has occasionally been used by the health centre staff. I would even be happy to table photographs of this van if the minister would like me to. Can the minister clearly explain why this van is not used to provide transportation to the medical clients who use wheelchairs or have other mobility issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also

like to thank the member for clearly indicating that there is a van available. I will look into it and once I have the information, I will consider the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recognize that there are issues with health centre staff providing transportation to medical clients. Will the minister commit to setting up a contract or [MOU] with the appropriate agents to provide transportations services to medical clients in Rankin Inlet who are in wheelchairs or have other mobility issues so that they can get to and from their medical appointments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, I will look into this issue and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 401 – 4(2): Activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice, whose department is responsible

for the administration of the *Coroners Act*.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's proceedings the minister announced that there are currently 23 coroners in Nunavut. I would like to note that some communities have multiple coroners while other communities do not have a resident coroner at all.

Can the minister indicate which communities currently do not have a resident coroner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, in reviewing the documentation regarding the communities without a coroner, there are ten communities that don't have a local coroner and are under the jurisdiction of the chief coroner of Nunavut who is located in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked if the minister could name the communities.

Mr. Speaker, on March 19 of 2014, the minister tabled the Office of the Chief Coroner's 2011 annual report. This report indicates that "recruitment of local coroner is done by the Coroner's Office."

Can the minister indicate how his department supports the coroner's office with the recruitment of local coroners,

and when can we expect to see coroners in the remaining communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to provide as much support as we can to coroners throughout our territory. The coroner's office submits an annual recruitment advertisement to the hamlets, local health centres, and police detachments, asking for local interested people to act as coroners locally. This is sent to every community and this recruitment process is undertaken annually. Last summer was the last recruitment effort, but it is done annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the important work that coroners provide in the territory. I also feel that it is very important that each community has a resident coroner to perform investigations in the tragic times that they become necessary.

I note that the Office of the Chief Coroner is an independent body and I am not asking the minister to interfere with its work.

Can the minister explain what actions the Office of the Chief Coroner takes in the event that an investigation is required in a community that does not have a resident coroner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The chief coroner performs those duties where there is no coroner in place locally. At the same time, the chief coroner also assists those coroners where there is a coroner. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 402 – 4(2): The Northern Residents Deduction Program**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my Member's Statement, I have some questions today for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, in 2008, the Conservative Government of Canada recognized that the Northern Residents Deduction has not kept pace with inflation and made a 10 percent inflation adjustment at that time.

My question to the minister is: what discussions has he had with his counterparts with the federal government on another inflation adjustment to the Northern Residents Deduction Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had no discussions with my federal counterpart about any further

increases to the Northern Residents Deduction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to go on to my next question for now. I'll follow up with that comment in my final supplementary.

Mr. Speaker, with some of the statistics that I had mentioned through my Member's Statement, throughout its 27-year history in Canada, it is my estimation that we are almost 84 percent behind inflation in this program. According to my calculator, the adjustment for inflation to the Northern Residents Deduction should be \$13.78, not the current \$8.25.

The minister kind of caught me off guard a little bit by saying that there have been no discussions in the previous seven years since this last increase on the adjustment for inflation. Forgive me if I am stumbling on my words a little bit, Mr. Speaker.

I guess my next question is: when is the minister anticipating having contact with his federal counterparts on bringing this issue up? As I stated in my comments, my concern is that if we continue to be silent about the inflationary impact on this program, then it again will likely be and it appears that it has been overlooked by all governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that Nunavummiut are appreciative of Mr. Hickes for bringing it up again.

There have been discussions. The premiers of the three territories, in 2012, directed the finance ministers for the three territories to raise this issue. The three finance ministers, and I was the finance minister at the time, directed our officials to work on it. Following the conclusion of their work and their analyses, it was our conclusion as finance ministers that our efforts as the three territories are better served focusing on lobbying for infrastructure type items. Consequently, we informed the premiers of the day that we would do that. They agreed and we focused on lobbying for the gas tax, the [Building] Canada Fund, medical travel, housing funds, and resources for energy. That has been our focus.

Mr. Hickes has done a considerable amount of work. I recall at the time, in 2007, this House, in fact, passed a unanimous motion calling on the Government of Canada to increase the Northern Residents Deduction. As Mr. Hickes stated, we were successful in 2008, but in 2012, our analysis showed us that, with our limited resources personnel-wise and financial-wise, we should focus on lobbying Canada for funds that would benefit all Nunavummiut, and that's what we did. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I stated in my opening, I understand that there are many priorities and that

this government is working with its federal counterparts on a number of significant initiatives that will have a benefit to our constituents.

At the same time, I understand that this isn't a money donation or a money contribution or even anything added to our transfer agreements with the federal government; this is residents of Nunavut keeping their tax dollars in their pockets.

At this time, I would like to ask the minister if he will commit to committing to raise this matter with the appropriate ministers, with the Government of Canada, and request that the Government of Canada take steps to support working Nunavummiut. I ask the minister to table correspondence on that matter at the minister's earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Hickes pointed out yesterday, I'm not fond of making commitments and I won't make that commitment.

I do know that in the latest stats for 2012, 9,300 Nunavummiut saved \$18 million in taxes, so it is a benefit to Nunavummiut. It cost the Government of Nunavut, I think, a little over \$4 million in lost revenue. The payoff/tradeoff between putting money in the back pockets of Nunavummiut versus the government's lost revenue to cover the Northern Residents Deduction is fairly insignificant to us as a government, but helpful to Nunavummiut.

However, again, as I said, we are lobbying for all the funding from Canada, and I do have three proposals into the Government of Canada right now, as I said the other day, energy, housing, increase the debt cap, and I know other ministers are lobbying. Ottawa reads the *Hansard*, so they're well aware of Mr. Hickes and this exchange, I'm sure, is being listened to as we speak.

I will talk to my officials, but I can't make that commitment that I can write letters. It is a considerable effort to push these kinds of things along. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 403 – 4(2): Status of New Cape Dorset Power Plant**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister is aware, I have been asking questions since the beginning of the Assembly about the urgent need for a new power plant in Cape Dorset. The power plant in Cape Dorset was constructed probably around 1964 and it has been in service for over 60 years.

As I speak, I'm fully aware that the Utility Rates Review Council approved the major project permit for a new power plant. I'm aware that QEC has included the project in its capital plan.

My question for the minister is: what specific factors are delaying the start of construction of Cape Dorset's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Mr. Speaker, I recall, I think it was in mid-2012, there was an article in *Nunavut News/North*, Opportunities for the North, and there was a story about infrastructure in Nunavut. The Cape Dorset Power Plant replacement was one of the stories and the estimated cost at that time was it could be \$12.5 million. Here we are almost three years later and there has been no further progress on the development of that project.

I believe this specific issue with the delay in the project is over land in the community. The hamlet is seeking a court decision on a specific lot in the community that they can turn over to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to proceed to design a plant and then eventually construct the plant in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. As the minister will recall, I presented a petition last year in the Legislative Assembly that was signed by many of my constituents concerning the urgent need for a new power plant. In its response to the petition, QEC stated that once the location for the new plant has been legally transferred, more in-depth

planning can begin. This was almost a year ago. What specific discussions are currently underway to resolve the land issue once and for all? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know as legislators, we have laws that we have to abide by. The Hamlet of Cape Dorset is proceeding through a legal process, I understand, to secure the land and when they secure that land, we will be in a position to proceed with the design. Our officials are, of course, monitoring the situation and hopefully the situation will be resolved soon, and then we can proceed to start designing a power plant for that specific piece of land in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset residents cannot wait forever. My last question to the minister is if he is prepared to consider using every tool at his disposal, including the power of expropriation, to ensure that construction of Cape Dorset's new power plant begins in our lifetime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope the issue is resolved before the end of Mr. Joanasié's life.

Mr. Speaker, as the former mayor of my community, I prefer to resolve issues locally and go through a process where all parties have their day to defend themselves, whether it's in court or before the hamlet council. I'm not prepared at this time to go to the extreme measure of expropriating land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 404 – 4(2): Resources for Inclusive Education**

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

Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciated the level of detail provided by the minister and his staff during his appearance before the Committee of the Whole to discuss his department's proposed budget for 2015-16.

I understand that the department is soon expecting a report on the review of its inclusive education program. Can the minister provide an update on exactly when that report will be completed and when it will be made available to Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for asking that question because education is very important. I know that people are interested in hearing this. With regard to the member's question, we have stated that we are reviewing inclusive education. We have started the review of inclusive education. I can't tell you exactly when the review will be completed, but it will go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During yesterday's discussion, it was noted that under the current system, to determine a student's learning disabilities, a parent needs to get a referral to an educational psychologist. Can the minister clarify how that referral process works? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to that question, obviously we have procedures in place that we follow. By utilizing these procedures, we are able to handle them and the policies lay out that process. Now, another important aspect to this is the kind of testing provided to our students to determine the extent of their disabilities. Our goal is to continue to follow the process. However, we want to have an appropriately designed test to do it properly. I can only respond to you that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite get a good understanding of how the referral process works, but I will go on to my next question and perhaps get back to the minister on that at another time.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our education system, like many others, faces challenges in allocating resources where they will be the most effective. Can the minister clarify who pays for the services of an educational psychologist to diagnose a student's learning disabilities, and after the diagnosis is completed, how does the Department of Education provide for the specialized interventions or learning resources that may be recommended by an educational psychologist for a student with learning disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question, as this is a very important matter she raises. As per my earlier response, a detailed procedure is laid out for various tests similar to what the member is referring to. The testing is done in the school following the detailed procedures, as they can only conduct the testing with these procedures. I can only respond with that at this time. However, as I stated earlier, wherever policies are required to govern certain procedures, it is laid out for that kind of testing and who has to conduct the testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 405 – 4(2): Plebiscite on Alienation of Municipal Lands**

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

Now that the dust has settled a bit from the questions that were asked earlier this week and the Premier has informed us that the land plebiscite vote will happen in March 2016, I would like to ask the minister to give us an update on when the government will make its final decision on which of its departments or which entity will be the formal plebiscite authority for the purpose of next year's vote on the issue of disposal of municipal lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I indicated at one point, we're still awaiting direction from EIA as to when this will be brought to cabinet. Once that happens, the decision will be made as to who will be the plebiscite authority. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the residents of Iqaluit voted a couple of years ago on municipal

borrowing initiatives, only ratepayers had the vote.

As the minister is aware, the *Plebiscites Act* also provides that if the plebiscite authority wishes to direct the question to be asked in a plebiscite to a group or class of persons other than the class of persons with the right to vote under section 1, the writ shall set out to establish the qualifications of the voters entitled to vote at the plebiscite.

In plain English...

>> *Laughter*

...the plebiscite authority can decide who can vote on the plebiscite. Mr. Speaker, you don't have to be a lawyer to understand this, but you have to listen very well. This means that the plebiscite authority has the ability to define who can vote in next year's plebiscite.

My position is that voting should be limited to residents who presently have leases in municipal lands or are already landowners. Can the minister give us the government's position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this point, again, as previously mentioned, until such time that it is decided that the eligibility can or will be changed, I cannot indicate that it will be changed. However, at this point, as it stands, a person has to be 18 years old



and a resident of Nunavut for a year.  
(interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. We all know that time goes fast  
and March 2016 is 12 months away. As  
the minister stated, he is waiting for EIA  
to assist in picking the plebiscite  
authority, but the ball has to start rolling.  
There's so much work to be done and  
this is such an important vote. We don't  
want the preparations to be rushed  
because this is really important for all  
the people of Nunavut. Is the minister  
working with EIA to try to get the  
plebiscite authority named as soon as  
possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation  
ends) As the member, I'm sure, is aware,  
this is a multi-jurisdictional issue. We  
are in conversation with EIA along with  
the Department of Justice on this issue.  
(interpretation) Thank you.

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

#### **Question 406 – 4(2): Issues with Baker Lake's Municipal Garage**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Baker Lake hamlet  
garage is used to store municipal  
vehicles like the water and sewage  
trucks, and it is the workplace for  
summer projects and even during the  
winter.

In the past month, the hamlet garage was  
inspected by workers' compensation  
officials, which the safety inspector  
identified some of issues with the  
building. After inspection, he noted the  
garage roof had mould and the cement  
flooring is deteriorating in some areas.

Can the minister tell us if his officials  
will be working with the Municipality of  
Baker Lake to deal the issues identified  
and to see that they are resolve? Thank  
you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my  
colleague for asking questions with  
regard to this. With regard to what he  
mentioned, it was brought to our  
attention just the other day on Monday,  
March 4. I have instructed my  
department to deal with it and we are  
planning a trip into Baker Lake to better  
understand the scope of the problem.  
Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. During the recent fall sitting,  
the Legislative Assembly approved more  
than \$27 million in funding for the  
department's capital projects, including

\$5 million for minor capital projects. At that time, the minister stated that this minor capital funding would be used to assist communities with minor infrastructure upgrades and repairs and for lifecycle renewal of GN-owned assets.

Will the minister look to allocating funds under his department's minor capital budget to assist the Hamlet of Baker Lake in addressing the mould in its in-town garage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Municipal governments annually receive operations and maintenance funding to cover the upkeep of municipal facilities and buildings. If they maintain their buildings properly, these problems would not surface so often.

With regard to his question, I can say that we are going to Baker Lake to better understand how big of a problem this is. They will identify a work plan and it will become clear what sort of funding we will have to spend. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister outline his department's capital planning process and whether those reasons will be taken into consideration when reviewing the garage replacement project for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. If the community feels that a garage is a priority and should form part of their capital plan, as per my usual response about (interpretation ends) Building Nunavut, (interpretation) that can be the process the hamlet can submit their request into. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 407 – 4(2): Mary River Project**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the leader of this government, (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

(interpretation) As I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, I had the honour of hosting the Premier last summer on the occasion of his visit to the Mary River site near Pond Inlet.

As the House and perhaps all Nunavummiut are aware, Baffinland is proposing to lengthen its shipping season to possibly a ten-month shipping season to allow for year-round operations.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the right of my constituents to make their views known on this issue and I strongly believe that my constituents need to have meaningful opportunities to provide

input on proposals that are subject to regulatory review.

For that reason, let me ask the (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier: (interpretation) for the benefit of the listening public, can he update the House and my constituents in Pond Inlet on the status of the regulatory review of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to speak on behalf of the regulatory bodies that are out there. I did receive letters, both from the proponent and the regulator, stating why there may be some delays, but I'm not going to be speaking on behalf of the proponent for the regulators. As a government, we participate in the processes, but as Government of Canada members, we do not participate in the direct discussions.

I understand where the Member for Tununig is coming from. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, in Kugluktuk we established and made our mandate for employment. With employment of a lot of people from Pond Inlet, I'm hoping that's going to be continued because there are a lot of unemployed people.

With that, yes, I am aware that there are some delays there. At what stage they're at now, I just don't know that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the Premier publicly for taking the time and making the effort to become familiar with the opportunities and challenges that are facing my constituents.

I would like to ask this question for further clarity: can the Premier clarify what role the Government of Nunavut is playing in relation to the regulatory review of Baffinland's request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we have a role to play in the regulatory processes, including monitoring of projects that are approved by the regulatory bodies and the federal minister. Mr. Speaker, when called upon by the regulatory bodies, we do participate, we do have a sustainable development committee that puts into action to participate along with other regulators, whether they be from federal departments, the Inuit organizations, and the landowners. We play a part in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my final question. (interpretation ends) Can the Premier update the House today on what issues he has raised with the federal government in relation to the impact of the Mary River project on the community of Pond Inlet in respect to such matters as the need for new

investments in strategic infrastructure?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My cabinet colleagues make a lot of effort in talking to our colleagues down in Ottawa by lobbying and talking about our situation here in Nunavut. As we stated over a number of years, Nunavut is in a major infrastructure deficit and we talk a lot about that. As I indicated two days ago in one of my statements, during our discussions as premiers in August, infrastructure was one of the priority items within our agenda for all the premiers and Nunavut.

The regulatory bodies are established through the land claims agreement. We do not interfere with that, but we have full participation in projects that are proposed in the Nunavut Settlement Area. Mr. Speaker, I fully understand that the project itself is on Inuit owned lands, both surface and subsurface. There has been an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement signed with the Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association. We are hoping that the work continues. These benefits are for Inuit of the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear in the regulatory institutions that within their website, any public member can participate. They can bring up their concerns and issues to the regulatory bodies by writing and calling. That is one of the open and transparent things that we see through these regulatory bodies that were established under the land claims agreement. It gives public members, big or small, and small communities an opportunity to raise

their issues with the regulatory bodies that are established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 109 – 4(2): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report – April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014**

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

#### **Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 20 – Legislation Act – Notice**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 9, 2015,

that Bill 20, *Legislation Act*, will be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 19 – 4(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:03 and Committee resumed at 15:33*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order.

First of all, Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Committee of the Whole.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 15, 16, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2015-16 Main Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, if time permits, the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2015-2016 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, welcome to the Chamber. First of all, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Kuksuk.

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good day to the people of Nunavut.

Today, I have with me on my right Ms. Lori Kimball, who is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. On my left is Tim Brown, who is the Manager of Policy and Planning. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Chamber, Ms. Kimball and Mr. Brown. At this time, I would like to give you an opportunity to make your opening comments. You may proceed, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will read it in English.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. I am very pleased to meet with the members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2015-16 main estimates and business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As I said earlier, I have with me Lori Kimball, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Tim Brown, Manager of Policy and Planning at the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Looking at NHC's business plan, you will notice a common thread in the development and acquisition of better tools to improve the administration of its three core business areas of public housing, staff housing, and homeownership. NHC's objectives for 2015-16 demonstrate a clear agenda for increased support for local housing organizations and a renewed client-based approach to service delivery.

The GN funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the fiscal year

2015-16 will increase by \$10,983,000 from the 2014-15 main estimates. The increase includes:

- \$338,000 to cover the net reduction in CMHC debt repayment
- \$2 million to facilitate new staff housing units
- \$6,813,000 to cover costs of new public housing units
- \$1,832,000 to cover new positions established as a result of NHC's internal organizational review.

With the awarding of 248 new public housing units, all of which will be complete by December of 2015, and an operating cost of approximately \$25,000 per unit per year, NHC will require increased funding to maintain and operate these units.

2015-16 will also see an increase in GN staff housing units with the recent completion of ten units and another eight new units under construction, as well as the potential for a significant number of new units to be leased.

To ensure the smooth completion of new construction as well as to ensure that NHC has the capacity to meet its operational requirements and move away from its dependence on casual employees, new funding was approved for the creation of 21 new positions, more than half of which will go to the decentralized communities of Cape Dorset and Arviat. The need for these new positions was determined based on a comprehensive internal organizational review. The review identified that increasing NHC's human resources

capacity is critical to the proper functioning of the corporation. New positions will be hired incrementally over the next year.

This year will also see NHC take a stronger stance on the collection of rent and arrears, with a focus on individuals who have the ability to pay, but choose not to. Arrears accumulated by public housing tenants and homeownership program clients threaten NHC's ability to continue to support Nunavummiut in having a safe, suitable, and affordable home.

The over \$25 million in rental arrears currently owed to NHC could pay for the construction of almost 60 new public housing units. NHC is vigorously and actively pursuing the collection of these arrears and the collection rate has increased over the past year from 80.5 percent to 90.1 percent. However, there is still much work to be done.

The 2015-16 year will be a particularly important one for the corporation as it oversees the creation of the blueprint for action for the implementation of the GN Long-term Comprehensive Housing Strategy. Nunavut's housing crisis cannot be addressed in isolation. The blueprint for action will focus on collaboration between many stakeholders both within and outside the GN to map out the opportunities that exist to effectively address our housing crisis.

Important areas of focus of the blueprint for action that require significant collaboration include:

- Land development and availability for new housing construction

- Supportive housing to fill gaps in the housing continuum, including housing for elders
- More energy-efficient housing to save costs and reduce environmental impact

In the longer term, the need for additional public and affordable housing continues to place a burden on the finances of the government and we must seek alternative solutions and sources of funding. Access to adequate and suitable housing is intricately linked with other aspects of individuals' well-being, including health, education, and employment. Increased funding for housing will ensure more affordable and adequate housing options are available to meet the varied needs of Nunavummiut.

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

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2015-16 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr.

Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2015-16 operations and maintenance budget of \$183,856,000 has increased by approximately 6.4 percent since the introduction of its 2014-15 main estimates. The number of positions in the Nunavut Housing Corporation is 121. This is an increase of 17 positions from the 2014-15 main estimates.

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

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that it has completed a comprehensive organizational structure review and that one of its priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Implement approved recommendations as a result of [NHC's] comprehensive organizational structure review."

The 2014 Organizational Review Summary Report, which was provided to the standing committee, indicates that "a total of 21 new positions will be requested from Cabinet as high priority for meeting the immediate needs of the Corporation." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2015-18 business plan indicates that it "is now proceeding with the implementation plan for its organizational review, and has initiated steps to begin the first round of

competitions. The balance of the organizational review will be implemented throughout fiscal 2015/16."

The standing committee looks forward to an ongoing update on the implementation of the organizational review. The standing committee anticipates this to be a significant component of next year's operations and maintenance budget in its evaluation of its success.

In June of 2011, amendments to the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly. These amendments provided for the establishment of a board of directors for the corporation. During the minister's recent appearance, a number of concerns were raised regarding the subject of board governance, including the respective authorities of the board, the minister, the cabinet, and the Financial Management Board. Members will recall that this subject was also a topic of significant concern during the recent hearing on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual report and business plan.

The 2014-15 Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the Chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Board of Directors was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4 of 2014. The standing committee looks forward to the minister's 2015-16 letter of expectation being tabled in the House in a timely manner.

The standing committee reiterates its recommendation that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's future annual reports account in detail for the activities and decisions of the board of directors,



including its audit committee, the statutory mandate of which includes the responsibility to “ensure the critical and objective oversight of the corporation’s reporting of financial information and practices of strategic management and financial control.”

Although the standing committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that decisions in such areas as public housing allocations are made by local housing organizations in a consistent, unbiased, and transparent manner, it is equally important that the corporation recognize that local housing organizations are often in the best position to determine the most appropriate course of action when faced with community-specific situations.

The standing committee recognizes that this issue was included in the minister’s 2014-15 Letter of Expectation to the Chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Board of Directors, following the standing committee’s prior recommendation. The standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s updated management agreements with local housing organizations be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. I would like to note that the minister did table this document a couple of days ago.

On May 13 of 2013, the Government of Nunavut’s Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year has been 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 notes that a request for proposals was issued and awarded at the beginning of this year for consultation to be completed by the fall.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that “Each Public Housing unit requires more than \$24,800 per year to operate and maintain. However, funding from CMHC for the social housing inventory, which was transferred to the Corporation in 1996, is declining and will terminate completely in 2037. Additional resources will need to be identified and dedicated to the operations and maintenance of public housing.” The standing committee identifies that this priority is included in the minister’s 2014-15 letter of expectation.

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

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

The Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 13, 2013, indicates that "arrears stood at \$18.5 million as of March 2012." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014, indicated that this amount has increased to \$26,998,523.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 annual report also indicates that it "has drafted a Collections Policy that has been reviewed by the Board and approved for consultation with the GN." It also indicates that during the fiscal year of 2013-14, "the collection rate increased from 80.1% to 89.6%." The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Collections Policy in the Legislative Assembly.

On January 24 of 2013, the Government of Nunavut announced changes to the public housing rent scale. These came into effect on February 1 of 2014. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its goals was to "Monitor impact of changes made to the public housing rent scale and identify how the new rent scale software can assist the NHC in demonstrating the social, economic and cultural impacts of housing issues across Nunavut."

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2015-18 business plan indicates that it is "producing monthly reporting from the new rent scale software, as well as certain key statistics on a quarterly basis." The standing

committee recognizes the importance of having comprehensive information with which to address housing issues faced by Nunavut and that a key goal of reforming the rent scale has been to remove disincentives to employment. The standing committee looks forward to evaluating the success of this priority.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget for its homeownership programs is funded through its annual capital estimates. The corporation's 2015-16 capital estimates, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly in October of 2014, included a total of \$4,616,000 in funding for homeownership programs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year has been to "Research and develop proposed changes to...home ownership programs resulting from the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing [and Homelessness] Strategy." The corporation's draft 2015-18 business plan indicates that a priority for the 2015-16 fiscal year is to "Identify proposed changes to the NHC's home ownership programs resulting from the Blueprint for Action."

Mr. Chairman, public demand for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs is significant. The corporation's 2013-14 annual report indicates that the corporation received 447 new applications during the 2013-14 fiscal year. As of March 31 of 2014, a total of 293 applications were pending or waitlisted.

The standing committee continues to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to carefully review such issues as the current income thresholds

for its programs, as well as need to take into account such factors as local availability of skilled tradespeople in remote communities when determining allowable amounts under such programs as the Emergency Repair Program and Home Renovation Program.

The standing committee recommended in its 2014-15 review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's main estimates 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 12 months prior to being eligible to vote in a general election. It is not unreasonable to expect individuals to have lived in the territory for at least one year prior to being eligible to receive significant financial support under the government's homeownership programs. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee again recommends that this recommendation be implemented by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 main estimates and 2015-18 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Well read. (interpretation) Now as we proceed to the review, let me remind members of our two simple rules governing this process which ought to be ingrained by now, but again I would like to remind you that according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and

according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

At this time, I want to open the floor to general comments only, if members have any general comments, and to remind you that during this time if any member has general comments, this is your opportunity to express those thoughts. However, keep in mind that every question you have on the details will be reached during the page-by-page review. I imagine all the details will be listed out and every question you have on the details will eventually be reached. I now open the floor for general comments. I don't see any hands.

We will then move on to the English page L-3 and please listen carefully. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Go to page N-IV-1. In English, (interpretation ends) Corporate Summary. (interpretation) Are there any questions? N-IV-1. N-IV-2. Any questions? Pat.

I apologize. I'll start over again. We will start on N-IV-2. I will recognize Ms. Angnakak and I apologize.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): It's okay. (interpretation ends) Thank you and welcome to you all.

Let me start off with District Program Administration and that. I just want to touch on what I have brought up before in the past in regard to the application process that some people, especially the elders, have to go through. When they are applying for a program, sometimes a lot of information is required of an elder whose status really hasn't changed over

the years when they make multiple applications. I'm wondering if you have given any thought to that, especially when we're talking about the senior citizens' home repair, emergency home repair, and those kinds of things, if you could touch on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that excellent question. I believe it has been an ongoing concern also for our corporation. From that time until now, there is always one form called a CRA form that is used when they're applying. (interpretation ends) The consent of that one form that is all that is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if you can tell me then... . With the CRA form, I know that was one of the forms that were asked for. Is that so you still want three years of financial information from an elder? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I believe we can get that information from the CRA for three years. We can request for three years of income information through CRA. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to looking at the other requirements? I think I have asked this before a year ago. The government has different programs and services that any Nunavummiut can access, including elders, and they are often very different. I'm wondering if the housing corporation can look at some of those requests and see how they do it because I can tell you that it's a lot less cumbersome than what you guys have.

When you want three years from an elder, sometimes it's really difficult to come up with. Can you please just take a look at that? If you can come back to us on what option that could be decided upon that would make it less stressful and less difficult, especially for the elders who want to access some of your programs, if I can get your commitment to look at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have that one form. All they need to fill out is that one form, but if we want to look into the other information, we can go to CRA, as this is the one form that is all the person will need to fill out as an application. Thank you. (interpretation) I hope that was understandable. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand the one form, but in that one form, you ask for at least three years worth of financial information.

I guess what I'm doing is that I'm looking more at the elders. Their status doesn't really change. They're not going to go out to work all of a sudden and earn \$100,000. Their status remains the same. Each year, when an elder wants to access housing programs, they always have to go back and do the three years, and some of them have a hard time with that and that's what I'm asking for. Can you look at that?

Some of the other government programs don't ask for that. If you can commit to looking at what does the government ask for in other programs and services that Nunavummiut can access, can you look at what they ask for? It's a lot less than what Housing does. That's what I'm looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I get you now, Ms. Angnakak. Just so you know what we're talking about here, we can even provide you a sample form so that you know what kind of form we're talking about here. We can give a copy the members at some time. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did I hear the minister say that he's going to commit to at least looking at the other programs as well in

the government and what their request for financial information is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation) Is that what she heard? (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I apologize as I didn't grasp the question at all. I was discussing an issue with one of my officials. Perhaps the member can repeat her question so that I can fully listen to the question, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, as I did partially hear the question, but I didn't hear (interpretation ends) the last part. I'm sorry.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak, please clarify your question.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm asking of the minister today right now is for his commitment to look at other government programs and services. When you access those government programs and services outside of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, what they want from you when you fill out an application is a lot less information than what... I'm talking mainly elders here. It's a lot less information than what the Nunavut Housing Corporation wants. I'm just thinking about elders mainly and about how their status really doesn't change very much, and if you can commit just to look at other services within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** The answer is yes.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his commitment to that. I look forward to hearing back from the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The other thing I see in here, I mean obviously it's kind of your foundation right now, and that is your Comprehensive Long-term Housing Strategy that you have been working on for a long time now. I would like to ask you: what has been the greatest challenge when it comes to the development of this strategy? What's happening? Why is it taking so long, and what are some of the challenges that you've had to overcome in order to get to where you are today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This was quite complex to undertake given the fact this territorial government can't handle the housing shortage alone, especially in looking at the big picture Nunavut-wide, particularly due to (interpretation ends) stakeholders (interpretation) being numerous as an example. NTI is one of the stakeholders amongst others.

We will have to collaborate with the stakeholders in order to resolve this, as this government alone didn't come up with the (interpretation ends)

comprehensive Blueprint for Action on Housing, (interpretation) which is our plan towards this goal. There are many (interpretation ends) stakeholders (interpretation) involved in this process that we are required to (interpretation ends) consult (interpretation) with to move forward. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. In keeping with that line of thinking, you recently issued a request for proposals for the facilitation and reporting services for the preparation of the blueprint for action for your strategy. It says in your business plan on page NHC-6 at the top, it says here that you expected to award this RFP in January of 2015. I'm wondering: has this RFP been awarded and, if so, who was awarded the RFP? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This RFP the member is asking about has now closed. However, we have yet to make the final determination on (interpretation ends) awarding (interpretation) this to any of the tenders. We have received many proposals to date for this RFP. With the closure date having passed, we have to start the screening, but we haven't yet decided as to the actual winner of the RFP. Nonetheless, we expect that we will be able to announce the winner prior to the end of March. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell us how many submissions you got for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Approximately eight of them applied. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In keeping in line with the action plan, the action plan will focus on developing more energy-efficient and economical solutions to housing and furthermore, on more affordable housing options. When you speak of options, what kinds of options are you really talking about here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are various (interpretation ends) options (interpretation) we can look at in this area as to whether we meet that through research or some other study to look at the ventilation, energy efficiency of the doors or porches, and other variables measurable in the unit, to make it brief, if this is the best method to measure the unit efficiency rating as well as the condition rating to be used for the house and how it will be incorporated.

If the buildings are dilapidated, which is particularly true in the arctic where we experience extreme cold weather, as residents of this extreme environment, how can we ensure more energy-efficient buildings? We have to look at more fuel-efficient furnaces and more energy-efficient lights. The different technologies are available now, so these types of alternatives that save energy will be researched. Thank you very much.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're also thinking about housing in Nunavut, we have often talked about the climate, culture, and how different it is in Nunavut compared to those in the south. When you're discussing these kinds of things and coming with new housing methods, have you come up with something that nobody has done yet, that you know is going to be a pilot project, and you're going to do it for the very first time? Are there new developments like that that you're coming up with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Personally, I haven't been briefed on that. Perhaps Ms. Kimball can provide a response to the question, Mr. Chairman, if that's okay with you. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of housing designs, we are looking at how we can make a more affordable design. We are working back and forth. As we come up with different designs, we have a group that we run it through to do a costing of that to kind of see how we can approve it, looking at the cost elements and the functional elements.

As well, in terms of looking at the whole housing continuum, right now, as we have often said, we've got public housing at the very low end and then we've got homeownership at the very high end, but we really don't have that middle ground and that's where we need to develop the middle ground. We're looking at kind of what we're calling mid-market, to support that mid-market alternative. Part of what we're doing is analyzing our client base across Nunavut.

For instance, recent numbers of the rent scale show that 79.6 percent of all tenants in public housing make less than minimum wage on an annual basis. However, we do have roughly 6 percent that make more than \$60,000. How could we get those people who are making \$60,000 and over into something other than fully subsidized public housing and maybe go with a fixed rate rent?

We have to look at that in context with the private sector so that we don't disrupt that. It's not as simple as throwing some out there because there are unintended consequences. That's why the blueprint is going to have those consultations to figure those things out. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your answer, but I think we're a little off on different things.

What I was thinking more about was energy-efficient, being economical, more like that, when you build a house. Have you come up with any brand-new developments that maybe you want to pilot? I see in your business plan that you also work with, I think, a university here somewhere. I don't know if that means that you're coming up with actual plans together or not, but maybe you can elaborate a little bit on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Kimball to continue to respond to the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you can see in our annual report, the majority of our utility cost is actually water. When we look at the water consumption, our rates are actually below world health standards, so that's a different issue.

In terms of energy efficiency, all of our units that we're now building, we always make sure that it's of extremely high energy efficiency rating, more than the minimum standard for sure. Our actual energy consumption has actually been



quite good, but we do vet that element of any new designs as we go forward to make sure we're achieving that. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on. When I think about affordable housing options, one thing that comes to mind, and I haven't seen it in your business plan, is the issue with shelters. I don't see any mention of that and at one time, I believe and I could be wrong, but I believe the Nunavut Housing Corporation worked with shelters in Iqaluit anyhow and, if so, why did this partnership discontinue? Is it addressed anywhere in your action plans to do with shelters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the member's question, I believe she is referring to shelters. This is not part of NHC's mandate. It is covered by another department, the Department of Family Services, so shelters are not within our mandate and so we have nothing planned in this area. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That kind of surprises me because the Nunavut Housing Corporation is for all Nunavummiut and it's talking about getting a roof over your head. That's what we're talking

about, the basic human need. I would think that all departments would want to work in partnership with each other when it comes to complex issues like this because, really, this is a complex issue.

What about transitional houses? Sometimes when you're in a shelter and then the families moving out of the shelter, but cannot go back to their own home. Is there any kind of discussions with Family Services around this area and, if not, is there any interest of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work with Family Services to address this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, we will be involved in reviewing that through (interpretation ends) the Blue Print for Action on Housing (interpretation) where we will look at partnership with other departments, such as Family Services, Health. Our corporation could work together to review this matter. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Let me remind members that we are on operations. We aren't dealing with capital estimates and if members can try to focus on the agenda items we are reviewing in order to move forward more smoothly. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think all of that relates to the blueprint that is in the business plan.

Again in the business plan on NHC-7, it talks about your Inuit Employment Plan and that several beneficiaries have been offered mentoring. I'm just wondering if you could tell me how many beneficiaries are taking part in this program, where they are located, and what areas of work they're involved in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detailed information on that, but if you will allow Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Let me give her the opportunity. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There are two employees. What we are doing is actually putting employees in the position but at a lower level with a training plan for two years to bring them up to the full scope of that position. We've got one position like that in Cape Dorset and one in Arviat. It's in the staff housing area where we will be grooming them so that they can move up through the corporation. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the minister can tell us: do you have any plans to expand that so that more Nunavummiut can participate in that program? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if there is an interest in other communities, we can expand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see I have a very few seconds. When we talk about your Inuit Employment Plan, do you have any target goals for that over the next five years or so as an example? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. That was perfect timing, down to the second. (interpretation) Well done. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I'm sorry for letting you wait, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I don't have that level of information, so I'll have Ms. Kimball respond if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't formalized that in terms of numbers at this point. What we're doing is we are actually looking at how each job leads to the next job and what training or education or skill sets would be required to advance. We are in the process of developing that across the organization. As we get those analyses done, we can better forecast what would be achievable through that time. We are

still in the development stage, but we are working on the initiatives that will get us there. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Before I go to another member, let me remind everyone to put your cellphones and other electronics on the silent mode or shut them off because we can hear them through the sound system.

We are on N-IV-2. If there are any other comments under that, please raise your hand. At this time, I do want to recognize Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't expect to get up so soon.

I guess I will start off with a fairly basic one. In the 2011 amendments to the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*, they called for the requirement of the board of directors to establish an audit committee to provide oversight of the corporation's financial information and other matters. As of today, who sits on the audit committee and how many meetings has it had since its establishment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the committee deals with day-to-day matters. As to the terms of reference for the committee, I don't have that level of detail. Perhaps the information I just received from Ms. Kimball, (interpretation ends) all board members are the (interpretation)

committee and the entire board dealt with those issues. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. Mr. Hickes, I'm going to give you about a one-minute credit on your time. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. Maybe if the minister could just... With the second part of the question, I was wondering: how often does that board meet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe they meet three times per year. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a number of questions under this category. I'm trying to prioritize them in my own head before I run out of time.

With regard to the long-term comprehensive housing and homelessness strategy that was tabled in May of 2013, somewhat to the ten-year action plan that was done along with NTI and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, within the ten-year action plan, there was a cost associated or an estimate associated with what it would cost to fully implement that plan. Has there been a cost analysis on the long-term comprehensive strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
No, we have no information in regard to  
the approximate cost of that strategy.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Is that something the department is  
looking at analyzing? Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Yes, I believe so. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Is there going to be a timeframe  
associated with that? The main reason  
I'm asking is I believe that whenever  
you put a cost to something, whether you  
want to call it negotiations or discussions  
with potential funding stakeholders, it  
makes it a lot easier if you can put a cost  
to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
After the (interpretation ends) blueprint  
for action plan on housing  
(interpretation) has been developed, we

should know how much it will cost.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
I can see the correlation with the need to  
get the blueprint done to analyze the  
cost.

I'm going to take a step back to when I  
was talking about the Ten-year Inuit  
Housing Action Plan that was done in  
conjunction with NTI. It called for an  
investment of close to \$2 billion over a  
ten-year period and 5,700 new public  
housing units.

Is NHC and NTI considering making  
another joint proposal to the federal  
government for additional and stable  
housing funding? Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
To date, NTI hasn't been consulted.  
(interpretation ends) We are not in any  
discussions with NTI at this point.  
Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Last year when I was asking that  
question, I had asked if there were  
continuing talks with NTI at that stage  
on updating the ten-year housing  
strategy. At that time, the minister had  
said that there had not been any  
discussions with NTI with regard to that.

That was almost a year ago, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: have there been discussions with NTI to sit down and discuss an updated version of the Ten-year Inuit Housing Action Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to my colleague for making an error in my response. It was just in the middle of January that we initiated our discussions with them on the housing issue. (interpretation ends) We have started discussions not too long ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In those discussions, like I had asked earlier, was the topic of putting a joint submission into the federal government for stable and more money for housing...? The main reason I'm asking that is there has fairly recently been a change in some of the funding availability to non-government entities to access federal dollar funding, if that was a consideration in their discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Not really, as we haven't detailed any plans as to this (interpretation ends) joint (interpretation) approach with the federal government. We have to submit a proposal and to date, the discussions on

the matter have just commenced. This will be taken into consideration by both NTI and this government on the housing shortages we face. Yes, we have started to meet with them. (interpretation ends) That will be discussed with NTI. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Hickes, I shall give you another one-minute credit. Go ahead.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it might have been a little bit more than that.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were talking along with different stakeholders, one of the things that I also brought up last year was the agreement in place with CMHC on funding for O&M dollars. As most members are aware, I'm sure that that's declining up to 2037 where it becomes zero balance.

Last year, the minister wasn't really able to give me a clear picture of what type of negotiations are ongoing to reverse some of that funding so that it stays in a positive factor for Nunavut. I was wondering if he has had any discussions with CMHC on that topic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I haven't personally spoken with CMHC on the matter yet. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noted last year that it was a little under \$24,000 per year to maintain and operate a public housing unit. Now I'm seeing that it's almost \$25,000. I understand, through some of your previous responses, that any new construction is a lot more energy-efficient and obviously, I commend the corporation on that practice, yet our costs are still going up per unit. I had a number of concerns last year and I would like to just reiterate that concern. What is the Nunavut Housing Corporation to help offset some of those major operating costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Hickes, for your information, I have just given you an extra three seconds. Hon. Minister.

>> *Laughter*

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, Ms. Kimball would like to respond to that question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell the member that when we do meet with CMHC, we do have bilateral meetings, one of which is actually scheduled next week. It is something we raise at each of those meetings. We also bring it up on the PT circuit as well as it was a topic that was raised at the FPT last November.

It's something that CMHC has made very clear that it's not something open for discussion. I believe the term they used was "A deal is a deal." Across all the provinces and territories across Canada, there's a lot of movement in trying to move the federal government's position on that.

We also attend NHRC and CHRA meetings. We are also working with the Northwest Territories and Yukon in developing a tri-territorial submission that will outline a business case unique to the north. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate those three seconds. I probably used them up just saying that.

>> *Laughter*

Last year, I had also brought up the topic on utility savings. We still see a number of instances where people aren't directly responsible for the energy costs. I'm not saying it's not appreciated, but maybe it's not recognized. I brought up the topic of maybe putting out some type of notice or almost a pseudo bill type of thing. I can't remember the exact wording that I used last year.

At that time, Ms. Kimball had responded that there is software in place to track the usage per household, but they don't have the ability to produce a statement format of what I was looking at. It's something that has been identified that NHC wants to do and you have identified the IT strategy to get there. I would like an update on the progress of that process. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, I think Ms. Kimball would love to update the House on Mr. Hickes' question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, from an IT standpoint, we haven't made a whole lot of progress on that. We are trying to address that in terms of addressing our overall system needs. We are still very much a manual system organization and we recognize that that's got a number of risks with it, especially with our aging stock. We are looking at a full solution that will incorporate this as well. There is a lot involved to a procurement process for that and that's something that we're working on.

In the meantime, though, in the short term, we are trying to look at ways in terms of getting tenant engagement and motivation for tenants and figuring out once we do get that, how can we motivate tenants to reduce it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Kimball for that response. She kind of answered part of my next question here.

Now, you may not have the software to track per unit right now, and I know you've had an energy savings campaign in the past year with calendars and different advertising things. Last year, I also brought up a question of a question.

Is there any type of incentive program that could be offered to our tenants? Even though we don't know the usage per unit right now, if there is just an overarching, some type of an incentive program to push residents of public housing to be more energy efficient in their day-to-day lives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Kimball to continue responding to that line of questioning. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are things that we are looking at, trying to develop ways to provide those incentives. That is something that we are currently looking at. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to ask a question regarding something that is not in the business plan, yet it is in the business plan for the Department of Economic Development. It talks about a pay-for-power program where the Energy Secretariat staff has worked closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on a number of actions, including working towards a pay-for-power program for public housing tenants, a tenant energy conservation program, and energy-efficient retrofits.

Maybe if the minister could explain the objective, scope, and terms of reference for the pay-for-power program and why it's not included in NHC's business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to that question, unfortunately, I haven't been briefed on the issue as to how it would play out. Nonetheless, Mr. Brown manages this file. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, he can respond in detail to the member's question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Brown.

**Mr. Brown**: Thank you. The pay-for-power program, as it has been explained to me in dealing with my colleagues at the Department of EDT and the Energy Secretariat, is basically putting together a number of separate initiatives that we are working on together. Some of it is trying to look at energy audits that we just heard about in the news. Others are working on quantifying our utility usage and getting some tracking metrics in place for that, and then others are with regard to a tenant engagement program and how can we reduce our overall energy consumption that way.

From our perspective, we have been looking at it in terms of our collaboration on all of those issues. From what I understand, my colleagues at EDT are linking it together in terms of justifying their lines of work.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Brown. For the sake of the technicians, when you're done, acknowledge the Chair so that they can turn it over to me. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to directly include Mr. Brown in these proceedings.

With regard to the pay-for-power program when you're talking about identifying metrics and tracking data, and then just previously Ms. Kimball mentioned that there is a gap obviously in the IT component of being able to get that data, is there a potential for a link with the Energy Secretariat to assist them in their data collection by working with NHC to provide the necessary IT resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, Ms. Kimball would like to respond to that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Apparently Ms. Kimball, you really want to answer this question. Your chance.

>> *Laughter*

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can definitely do some data sharing. We do have information at the unit level, so we can actually export that for analysis. What we have the challenge in IT is translating that into a statement that can be delivered to clients. On the overall, we do have the data, though, that can be



analyzed with the Energy Secretariat.  
Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
I really look forward to seeing some further work on that. I think that would be a fantastic initiative to help alleviate and put more dollars back in the housing corporation to use for new housing stock.

I would like to touch on the arrears. I am happy to see the increase in collecting arrears, but at the same time, if I go back to May of 2013, the arrears were \$18.5 million. Today, in the minister's opening comments, they are at \$25 million. Even with the great efforts being made to collect, it's a growing and growing number. Are there any other actions that NHC can do to collect these arrears? That's 60 units that could be on the ground right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
Yes, the level of arrears is disconcerting, which is obvious because the levels are not decreasing visibly. However, the other tool in use now is called the (interpretation ends) collections project (interpretation) and the other name is the (interpretation ends) collection agency pilot project. (interpretation) Once these pilot projects were commenced, we saw a decrease in the amount of arrears. That is as much as I can respond with at this time. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
I'll move on from that one. Maybe somebody else might pick it up a little bit more.

I'm just going back to last year's Committee of the Whole. One of the responses intrigued me at the time and then I followed up with it a little bit. There was a response where NHC is looking at supporting elder living facilities and supporting elders. It even talks of assisted living.

If the members will indulge me, I'll do a quick quote. In one of the responses, it said, "At the same time, we are looking at existing dwellings that we have in our public [housing] stock. For instance, if we have a five-plex that might be suitable to have a care provider and, [say], four residents in a five-plex. We are exploring and having discussions...at the very preliminary stage...with the Department of Health." Maybe if the minister could update me on how those discussions have proceeded over the past year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
That is an excellent question. We will work with the departments of Health and Education on how to allocate units to the elders and converting the unused units (interpretation ends) or unused public housing into supportive living and dementia care facilities. (interpretation) Yes, the Department of Health is leading

this initiative along with our department.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
I realize that you guys had started  
looking into it, but how has it progressed  
over the past year? Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
With respect to those discussions, the  
Department of Health leads the planning  
process and we are collaborating on the  
plans, but nothing concrete has been  
developed to this point. Thank you very  
much.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
I guess I'll leave that one alone for now  
as well.

One of the things that, since I started  
campaigning, I have talked of a housing  
continuum where some of our adult  
youth get into an independent living  
system. Now, I know it's very difficult  
with our overcrowded situation where  
we can have two, three, or potentially  
four generations living in a household  
right now.

One of the things that I have always  
envisioned of being able to have,  
whether it be apartment living or one-  
bedroom or bachelor suites, where our  
adult youth can move into to gain some

independence, start learning some life  
skills, becoming more self-sufficient,  
then moving on through their own  
partnering up or moving up in their own  
lifecycle of families and children, even  
up into private homeownership  
opportunities. I know this is something  
that Housing has been looking at for a  
number of years.

I would just like to get the minister's  
thoughts on how this is progressing and  
what concrete actions are taking place so  
that we can start having our youth living  
independently and learning these life  
skills at an earlier stage than moving out  
on their own through overcrowding,  
already having a family, but not really  
having had the opportunity to learn how  
to maintain a household. Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
Regarding the issues Mr. Hickes raised  
in his question about smaller housing  
units or single or bachelor units, it hasn't  
been studied to see if the costs would be  
offset by what Mr. Hickes  
recommended, but it would have to go  
through the government in terms of the  
assistance required to do that. Currently,  
we are looking into the cost analysis for  
a one-bedroom unit. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

**Chairman**: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister.  
(interpretation) Mr. Hickes, you have  
run out of time. I will be able to  
recognize you later on. I still have names  
on my list. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the topics were already covered, but I would just like to dig into them a little more.

Mr. Hickee was just talking about the rental arrears of \$25 million. In the minister's opening statement, it states that the collection rate has increased from 80 to 90 percent. I'll ask the minister: are the arrears going down? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Approximately 10 percent is dedicated towards arrears. How can I say the right term? I can't remember the Inuktitut meaning for the (interpretation ends) collection rate, (interpretation) which has risen by about 10 percent. That is what I was trying to state here.

With respect to the question of whether the arrears amount is dropping and in looking at Mr. Savikataaq's figures (interpretation ends) from \$18 million to \$25 million, (interpretation) the amount change probably doesn't make sense with the figure seemingly increasing, but Ms. Kimball can explain why that is the case. Mr. Chairman, if you can allow Ms. Kimball to answer Mr. Savikataaq's question.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at a collection rate of 89 percent, it basically means there's still another 11 percent out there that is not being collected of every annual amount and that's going to continue to

grow until we get over 100 percent collection, which we way never achieve.

One of the things we're doing right now and part of why the arrears are going up, a couple of reasons are that we increased the housing stock by almost 1,000 units, so we're assessing a lot more rent than we were before. That additional rent assessment is going to have additional rental arrears. The fact that we're collecting 10 percent than we were in prior years is a huge accomplishment.

We've got a backlog of older arrears that we now need to work through and figure out how much of that can be collected and how much can't be collected. As we address the ones that can't be collected, then that will come off that number. We haven't done any of that yet. We wanted to make sure we take a thorough look and collect as much of it as can be collected before we start writing off any amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that LHOs are responsible for collecting of rent. For the ones that are owed a huge amount of arrears in rent, does that impact their budgets or their operational requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for a simple example, if a local housing association has \$1 million in arrears, the housing corporation would give them \$1 million less, then, in the budget because that's the \$1 million that they could have or should have come up with? That's just a figure I come up with, but you could put any number in there you want. Are they given, as part of their funding, however much their arrears are, that much less in their budgeting? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I didn't quite understand his question unfortunately, but I believe Ms. Kimball understood the question as to how that process is run. If I answered, it would be confusing. Ms. Kimball can answer that question, if you don't mind, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball, I believe you wanted to respond.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding formula is a little bit complicated, but basically, if you anticipate that they need... I'm just going to use round figures. If we're saying they need \$2 million to operate for their admin. and maintenance, then we estimate what we think they're going to have for assessments. They give us their actual assessments and we expect them to collect that less 3 percent. We allow 3 percent as bad debt and if they collect less than that, then it does impact their finances in the current year. It doesn't affect their budgeting. It affects their actual results in terms of surplus. It

doesn't affect future year budgeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Kimball for clarifying that to the viewing public. Another topic that was brought up by one of my counterparts was the Nunavut Housing Corporation's RFP for the interdepartmental coordination and production of the Government of Nunavut Housing Action Plan. It's quite a mouthful. You requested an RFP and you have said that you've got it.

My question is just: why are you going to an outside source when, I believe, you have all the accountants, all the trade experts, all the lawyers, and every kind of professional person that you need? Was there something that you could not do in-house? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to that question, we don't deal with this singularly as the department. We have different departments outside of NHC involved, such as CG&S, Environment, and others that are involved in the (interpretation ends) facilitation (interpretation) process. We have to work together on this issue, as we can't implement the plan by ourselves. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for admitting that they have capacity issues.

I will go on to another thing related to LHOs still. A few days ago, the minister tabled a master management plan between the LHOs and the Nunavut Housing Corporation and I noticed that the date on the bottom was 2006. Is that the original template or has it been updated or any plans to update it? Things change quite a bit in nine years. I know the context or the core areas would stay the same, but other stuff might change. I would just like clarification whether this has never been updated since 2006. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the 2006 management plan was the last time it was updated. To date, we have started developing plans to commence work (interpretation ends) for a new update. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister said it's going to be looked at for an update. Can he give a timeline on when we might be able to see an updated copy tabled in the House? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we can state that it won't

happen in 2015 and the likelihood is that it will be completed by the year 2016. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to different matters here, in the opening statement, you are getting 21 new positions to better fulfill your mandate. Going through the organizational review summary report, one of the PYs, or person years, is for Inuit language, Inuit societal values, and *Inuit Qaujimaqatungana*, one position. Can the minister just explain the role of IQ and societal values in terms of building houses? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is an internal government initiative dealing with IQ and it was brought up in the House earlier, as my colleague recalls. The different departments within our government have had to start incorporating IQ into operations and each department is provided with a PY to deal specifically with IQ as it applies to each departmental mandate.

(interpretation ends) Right off my head, (interpretation) as to who would lead this initiative within NHC and as to the dates of implementing them, I can't recall them. However, issues such as (interpretation ends) language (interpretation) and using Inuktitut as a working language has to be dealt with by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

With respect to IQ becoming part of each department, it has been left to them to implement certain areas, such as (interpretation ends) language (interpretation) or to use the Inuit writing system or language. That would part of the IQ areas implemented within the housing corporation. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the explanation. Still under these positions, there is an additional position for a homeownership program coordinator. I believe there has been one position since 1999, since Nunavut, and now we have one more. There will be two positions working on the homeownership program. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question, it will be a (interpretation ends) centralized (interpretation) position. I can't recall the Inuktitut word right now.

Mr. Chairman, within the (interpretation ends) homeownership application (interpretation) position, it will be a (interpretation ends) centralized (interpretation) position with one PY handling the homeownership applications throughout the territory. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I didn't make myself clear. Currently, there is a homeownership program coordinator and this one more position is being created as a homeownership program coordinator. I'm just trying to get clarification. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I will refer this question to Ms. Kimball.

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

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, in Arviat, we have a homeownership program manager and a homeownership program analyst. This is creating a brand-new homeownership program coordinator. In the past, we had a casual filling a position over there. Now we are actually making it a full-time position. As part of that, we are going to be centralizing our processing, which will alleviate some of the burden from our district offices so that they can focus on providing more supports for the LHO. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister and his staff know, I am a great proponent of homeownership programs. I hope this

means that there will actually be programs coming out now because right now, the only program that is available to get an existing building, I believe, is the down-payment assistance. There is no way of physically getting a house. It's just down-payment assistance. Am I correct to say that now that there are more people working on it, we might actually get a homeownership program? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. What the member referred to are the types of issues we have to consider as part of the review. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad they will look into that because we do need some kind of home assistance program. In the past, we had the access program, the HAP program, where people physically got a house.

I know Ms. Kimball has stated in the past that the clientele might be small, but it has been a while, so maybe the clientele might have picked up a bit. We need to get people into their own houses in Nunavut. I'm sure there are some now that are capable of operating a house now.

While we're on that, I know we have talked about it in the past, but it is homeownership qualification, I guess, or eligibility. What is the current maximum

household income to qualify for homeownership programs? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is for various communities as every community faces different challenges, as an example, Arviat. The figure listed here is \$158,500 for the household income cap in Arviat. The \$158,500 is the upper limit for Arviat. If you look at each community, these caps are different. I was just using Arviat as the example for this question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on with housing, I don't know if this would fit under homeownership programs or not, but right now, from the documents we have been given, a public housing house is costing the Nunavut Housing Corporation roughly \$25,000 a year to operate it. Staff housing, I think, was \$18,000 a year to operate it.

Is there any consideration being given to give a subsidy to anyone who wants to rent a house or buy a house to take the pressure off public housing? I'm not saying it should be \$25,000, but maybe if anyone who could rent a house from anywhere was given a subsidy of, let's say, \$1,000 a month, which would be \$12,000 a year, which is half the cost of public housing, maybe someone in the community would be able to build private housing to rent out, creating more houses without the government

expending lots on capital. If the minister understands where I'm trying to get to, can he please answer that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Just briefly, Mr. Chairman, his question includes numerous possibilities or (interpretation ends) options (interpretation) that would have to be looked into, although we have done some initial work on this. However, with respect to his question, we don't have an actual written document on those ideas. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood correctly, the minister said that his department is looking at options. This is one of the options that they might be looking at in the whole housing strategy. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Yes, (interpretation) we have included it in the list to be part of the overall comprehensive review. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have. This is just going to be a comment saying that we have to look at ways of getting the people of Nunavut into their own houses so that they can pay, the ones who can

afford it, to be in that house. As the minister is well aware, we will never house all the people in Nunavut with public housing. The money is not there to build the houses. The money is not there to maintain the houses. We have to help people of Nunavut in getting into affordable housing, not public housing, but affordable housing that they will own, operate, and be proud to live in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are on page N-IV-2. Thank you. My first question relates to the section listing other expenses, as this figure has increased. What is the reason for the increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In looking at the member's question, if it was on that page, I think it may be under (interpretation ends) N-IV-2. (interpretation) I don't see it. Perhaps it is on the next page. I apologize because I got confused about the page the member is on. Mr. Chairman, maybe he can reiterate his question.

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): We are at N-IV-2. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Yes, I apologize. That was unfortunate, but I just found the reference the member asked about.



This question relates to the increased amount in this line item. The increase is approximately \$47,000 and the reasoning for the increase is due to IT, or information technology, price increases. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Some of my colleagues raised the issues I want to query the minister about. Regardless of that development, I want to ask about arrears and collection of debt. With this pilot project you have initiated towards this arrears collection project from tenants, can you identify the communities where this pilot project has begun? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to (interpretation ends) pilot project number one (interpretation) related to collection of arrears, it has been used to lower the figures in four communities throughout Nunavut. The communities in this pilot project are Arviat, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, and (interpretation ends) Gjoa Haven (interpretation) where this pilot project was done in conjunction with them. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): When you identified the communities for the pilot project, as the headquarters with the housing corporation, how have

you provided assistance on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, we're talking about the pilot project and it's for the four communities that are involved. I don't understand what kind of assistance the member is referring to. Are asking about financial support or assistance through associations? Which kind of support from the corporation are you asking about? I would like you to clarify your question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak, clarification.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. Seeing that Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, and Kugluktuk are pilot projects for rental arrears collections and whatnot, how has the headquarter staff of the Nunavut Housing Corporation supported these communities in the pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, we've had an agreement with the local housing authority and we are working together through the headquarters of the housing corporation. There are face-to-face meetings to see how it is going on an ongoing basis. We are working with them and we are keeping on top of that in terms of the pilot project on collecting arrears. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. In reference to that, will it vary by each of these four communities as to the length of the pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if I understood the question, the four communities are going to go ahead with the collection of arrears and we have identified these communities as a pilot project. We are just going to continue until its timeframe has ended under this project. It's a pilot project and these are the four communities that were identified.

If I am understandable, in terms of how it would (interpretation ends) vary (interpretation) or to which end as to where you determine where the stopping point lies, is that what you were asking about or were you referring to the local arrears? If the community arrears are removed from the books, perhaps it is laid out in our documents. I don't see it here. Nonetheless, if the arrears are paid off, it would be taken off that community's books and it would showcase the proper management of that community in dealing with arrears.

As you know, we are looking at various communities in the same situation. We want to have more communities taking on this initiative. (interpretation ends) But yes, (interpretation) when they run out of arrears under the pilot project, they would be removed from that project (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. The reason for my queries on this subject is because it is obvious that some tenants have arrears and they aren't all working. Some tenants with arrears are on income support or old age pension plans while some private homeowners moved to public housing due to arrears.

The reason why I am asking about this (interpretation ends) pilot project (interpretation) is to determine the timeline for the completion of the initiative. Some people's arrears don't look like they will ever decrease without attaining employment or they wouldn't change much.

Even so, if the tenant is on income support, would they receive assistance from the Department of Family Services to bring down their debt under this collections policy? With this being a (interpretation ends) pilot project, (interpretation) are there any new (interpretation ends) collections policy (interpretation) in the works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. However, what we can state here is that using the collections policy allows tenants to pay down their debt and this is quite noticeable. That is our first impression and as a matter of fact, we have made plans to add up to eight more communities under this pilot project, as it is (interpretation ends) successful, (interpretation) if I said it in

English. This project is running quite well and we want to add (interpretation ends) more communities (interpretation) to this (interpretation ends) pilot project (interpretation) and include them in it. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the positive response, seeing that it is an effective collection with these pilot projects. What are the key elements of the LHO deficit recovery plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As to the actual details he is referring to, I personally have no idea of the contents. If you don't mind, I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to the member's question, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we work with the LHOs to develop a deficit recovery plan, we look at where they are spending money and relative to what they are funded. They are funded for a specific number of employees and we compare that to how many employees they actually have to perform the work. That might be a strategy if they have actually employed more people than what they are actually funded to have.

We also work with them on collections. If they can improve their collection rates, it can also draw down their

deficits. We look at other costs that they're incurring and if there are ways that they could save money there to incur less money than what they're budgeted for, anything we can do to have them come in under budget to offset.

Generally, there's a reason why they have created a deficit that is within control. If it's something uncontrollable, then we would deal with that a different way, but if it's something that they can control, then we work with them to bring it back into control. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. My colleague was querying the minister on Inuit traditional knowledge. This position's IQ advice would be meaningful because some of the current units under construction are facing the prevailing winds. Based on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* and the prospect of IQ incorporation into the Nunavut Housing Corporation, with a position specific to this, the application of IQ related to local conditions and of not facing the local prevailing winds, such as in our case... .

The north winds are the prevailing winds in Baker Lake. The blizzards tend to originate from the north and if the units face north, this automatically increases the fuel needs of the unit. That is where IQ would be absolutely valuable to your operations and this position would benefit from *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* particularly related to the proper

placement of buildings. Will this position be responsible for decisions like this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is part of what we, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, design, including the placement of units and the face of the units. Yes, I concur with the comments you voiced, as we have heard on many occasions of either the doors or windows facing the sun to take advantage of the natural light to lower lighting needs. These are the kind of issues we have heard. Other issues brought up as advice from the local associations hit upon every aspect of our operations and, where it is feasible, to use that local advice.

However, there are other obstacles we can also run into in the municipal built-up areas, as the lots are under the municipal administrations, and sometimes lot selection is limited. We also have to review the lots to determine if the lot size fits our construction project. Invariably, the lot landscaping or placement determines where the unit will face because we have to fit the unit into the lot. This advice would be useful both to the hamlets and the Department of CG&S, as sometimes they are inadvertently the obstacle to how we want to construct the project, as they have to work with the municipal block lands and land development.

NHC isn't involved in the aspect of municipal lands management, as CG&S and the hamlets are the final arbiters of the development of their municipal

lands. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I want to move to another topic related to the Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation ends) headquarters. (interpretation) I queried the responsible minister about this (interpretation ends) new rent scale (interpretation) and in my questions, I asked about the impacts to the housing corporation. (interpretation ends) The new rent scale, I believe, was to remove some disincentives to employment. With the new rent scale, has it had an impact? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his question on the (interpretation ends) rent scale, (interpretation) it was a new scale when it was first implemented for the monthly debt repayment.

I can read (interpretation ends) that a small number of high income tenants experienced a rental increase as a result. (interpretation) There were fewer units that saw an increase in their new rent scale, Mr. Chairman. Am I understandable here? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this new rent scale and seeing that Baker Lake is one of the communities that have a pilot project, have you seen an increase in tenant arrears go up or go down with their rental arrears? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This pilot was just commenced recently and it is in its first year. We have to complete an (interpretation ends) audit (interpretation) on the pilot project and perhaps as early as June 2015, we may have a clearer picture of the trends. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak said that he was done. At this time, we will take a 10-minute break. We will come back. I still have a number of names on my list. We will take a 10-minute break. I believe the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister (interpretation) needs to take a break.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:37 and resumed at 17:49*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Let us reconvene our review. Members, an idea just came to me to see if it will be easier and more consistent to move to page L-3 in the English version, with the separate pages N-IV-2 and N-IV-3, including 4 and 5. They are separate documents, but they are all contained as items within page L-3.

If we were to not jump back and forth, it may allow for a smoother review by remaining on a singular page, if members can just identify the other documents under this page where you wish to ask questions on. If members agree that we can remain on page L-3 to ask questions and if anyone has any questions to start with, please raise your hand.

At this time, based on the listing of names of members with four names remaining and if any other members have questions, please raise your hand. We will remain on page L-3 and members can identify the item within the page they are referring to. We will now proceed in that manner and as we move onwards, let us move on to the next name, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. I will start with your departmental business plan on page NHC-5 under policy and planning. The figures listed there show the largest increases out of the total package. This is practically double the increase in comparison to the others, increasing from \$659,000 to \$1,265,000 in your latest figures. My first question is: why is there an increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that observant question regarding the reason for this increase. There are going to be (interpretation ends) new PYs (interpretation) that have to be funded

and that is the primary reason for the increase. There are 21 new positions within this line item. That is the main reason for that increase. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I wanted to ask on the research that NHC undertakes regarding social, economic, and cultural impacts that housing has. Is this an ongoing initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Brown to respond to that question, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Brown.

**Mr. Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the severity of the housing crisis, we need a lot more data, a lot more information on the different areas, and so we are always looking for research projects that we can tap into that can help us get those answers that we are looking for.

A specific example that we are involved in right now, in collaboration with the Department of Health, is on a project with University of Laval looking at the impact of new housing on tenants that were living in formerly overcrowded conditions. The importance of this kind of research is to justify more funding and more increases in funding for new

housing. We need to be able to quantify with actual numbers to be able to say that the impact of this new housing has this effect. That is one project that we are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Brown. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to thank him for the response. (interpretation ends) I see that it is being conducted through Laval University. I'm wondering what communities you are doing this research in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's part of that, so I would like to ask Mr. Brown to respond, if it's okay with you.

**Chairman**: Mr. Brown.

**Mr. Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are targeting the program in six communities in Nunavut. I believe there are Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, perhaps, Clyde River, and Iqaluit.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Brown. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that response. I want to move on to public housing, if I may. There are over 5,000 public housing units that the housing corporation manages for public

housing. I'm wondering: do you have figures of how many people live in those 5,000 units? Is there a figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For all of Nunavut, the total number of people living in units is 19,138 people at this time. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It was touched upon about the arrears. (interpretation) In regard to the collection of arrears, I believe the arrears are over \$25 million. I would like to ask: have you been collecting the \$25 million since 1999? If you can explain that further as to how long these arrears have been accumulating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for that question. According to our understanding, when it was the Northwest Territories before division, the housing corporation started taking that responsibility. That is the extent of the response I can provide. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. Another issue that I want to refer to is perhaps just to voice my support for the comments and questions from my colleagues related to the collection of arrears from tenants. I would urge the department to consider every option they possibly can, especially the Nunavut Housing Corporation to meet our needs. Now, this \$25 million arrear figure is for this year and I wonder if your department has any forecasts for next year.

Additionally, another piece of interesting information I heard from one of the responses earlier is there was mention of a figure in the opening comments. I believe it was a 90.1 percent collection rate of the total rental receivables, yet it also stated that no one expects the collections to ever reach (interpretation ends) 100 percent. (interpretation) That is how I understood the opening comments. With respect to that comment, does the department ever expect the recovery of arrears to reach 100 percent? I refer specifically to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's arrears collection program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If that is possible, that would be the best scenario. Nevertheless, we know that will be practically impossible to attain. We do have a (interpretation ends) target of 97 percent (interpretation) and that is our target level for the arrears collection. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Why not aim for 100 percent? I guess I would have asked that next. Nonetheless, it is what it is. Let me move to another topic here related to public housing. As an example, there are particular expenses required to be paid for the operation of the household, such as utilities and fuel costs, which have escalated compared to last year. I wonder which factor is driving the escalation of these costs, if I can ask the question to the minister, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The biggest increase that we experienced last year was water delivery charges to the units. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. That was a totally unexpected answer, as I was thinking of another factor, but it turned out to be water delivery. Will the officials look into this issue, especially the various water rates in the communities and what savings could be realized by using less water? I was thinking of water conservation efforts in the communities. Is this part of the overall housing efficiency review, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This issue is again outside of our mandate. In terms of water and sewage rates, we don't have control over those expenses, as that is a municipal operational issue. There isn't a general standard, such as using (interpretation ends) per litre (interpretation) and this is part of the issue. I can't respond other than that, unfortunately. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps I should have directed that to the Department of Community and Government Services, but I note it for future queries.

Let me move to the next topic here, staff housing, as this figure was notable to me. There are 1,424 staff housing units or units rented by the public service. How many employees are housed in these units? I asked earlier about the (interpretation ends) public housing (interpretation) tenancy rates. I wonder how many GN employees are using this number of units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. These are two different scales, as staff housing is specific to housing government employees, but with respect to the number of tenants, unfortunately we don't have that information available. There are big differences in the numbers,



as the numbers range from high to individuals in the units. I apologize we don't have that information regarding the number of people using these units. I seemed to understand his question as asking for figures, but we don't have the specific information for that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. As a good reminder for future meetings, perhaps you can provide this kind of information beforehand. With decisions related to the number of units used by GN employees, perhaps the 1,424 units may only have 1,000 employees renting them and I'm just commenting on it.

Let me move on to a different topic again, (interpretation ends) homeownership. (interpretation) My question disappeared, so let me stop here for now and give someone else an opportunity to ask questions. I need to prepare my question. I doubt I will have another opportunity today, but I hope I will tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll stop here for now.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. The question you almost voiced was about homeownership; perhaps I can finish that question for you. Why can't NHC strive for 100 percent attainment here? As you stated, your target is set at 97 percent. It makes me very curious as to why your department feels that is unattainable. Why is that impossible? Thank you.

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

With respect to collection of arrears, if I understood your question, it is the target we set at 97 percent. Your question as to why this isn't set at 100 percent is a good one. Mr. Chairman, I would like Ms. Kimball to respond if she has the information on whether we can strive for 100 percent debt collection. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball, can you respond to that?

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the funding that we provide the LHOs has them striving for 97 percent because we expect them to collect 97 percent. That is how we fund them. However, we do work with them to collect 100 percent and in some cases, more than 100 percent, if they are able to collect this year's assessment plus some of prior years' assessments. We actually have a number of them. We have four of them last year that collected more than 100 percent. We do try to collect as much as possible. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for explaining that, Ms. Kimball. I have a list of names and I know you are patiently waiting for your turn, which is stretching out, but I still have the following names: Mr. Akoak, Mr. Sammurtok, Mr. Hickes, Ms. Angnakak, and Mr. Mikkungwak. If you can be patient, I'm just giving you a heads up that there are that many names on my list. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just have one question. You're asking our tenants to save money on utilities; you're asking them to save. I

believe that some people do try, but the conditions of their units are not all that great to make them save. If they have conditions that are pretty bad with walls that are open to the outside, windows are pretty bad, and doors are bad, before you can ask them to save money on utilities, would you be able to fix up the units and maybe help them that way? When you have a nice building to look after, they will find ways to save for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this issue surrounding housing renovations is quite an expensive process. As we have related from time to time, it averages around \$25,000 just to maintain a unit and that amount increases dramatically.

We look at various methods related to proper maintenance or tenant care and various publications have been provided and this has proved beneficial. The tenants are provided basic maintenance information on the proper temperature ranges for summer and winter, winterizing your windows and ensuring their closure, common sense instructions that are designed for the tenant and that was a subject of (interpretation ends) a campaign (interpretation) through NHC. It became obvious that these had an impact, as it benefits both our department and the tenant in the public unit.

We will continue to work together as a corporation with our LHO partners to ensure that the tenant fulfills their tenancy responsibilities that Mr. Akoak

is referring to. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe if you do renovate, it will help keep the temperature down and it will help keep the power down. I think that's all I'm asking for, if you can, and that's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) would you like to comment on that?

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A brief comment, yes, I totally agree with my colleague and further, the matters within (interpretation ends) M&I (interpretation) are always reviewed for further improvement in the maintenance of the units. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Let us proceed. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Affordable housing programs and public housing regarding local housing associations, they look after all the maintenance and repairs and they get the budget for that for the year, but I understood there is no budgeting for emergency issues or standby for the staff to work after hours. Is that the case? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member's question properly, the (interpretation ends) budget (interpretation) is set by the local housing authority that the member is asking about. If they are going to deal with (interpretation ends) emergencies or callouts, (interpretation) if I understood his question on the public housing units, the local housing association is supposed to budget for (interpretation ends) emergency callouts (interpretation) as part of their operations funds. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I am unsure how to ask the next question as that confuses me. However, I was informed by my constituents in the community (interpretation ends) that it's not budgeted. There is no budget for emergency callouts or standby pay. (interpretation) I wonder if this can be reconsidered. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps Ms. Kimball can explain it and break it down if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding formula that is

used to fund the LHOs looks at the number of units they are supporting and calculates an employee payroll budget, basically a budget for all staffing needs which would include things like standby, overtime, etcetera. Part of it as well is there is a plan for preventative maintenance. If the preventative maintenance is done, then there should be less demand or emergency calls. As long as the overall operation of maintenance program is functioning, then it should work within the funding formula provided. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Following my list of names, Mr. Hickee.

**Mr. Hickee**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few more questions under this category. Mr. Joanasie kind of touched on some of the research activity that is being assisted with or participated with NHC. I would like to go back to last question that I asked the last time when we were talking about our youth developing life skills. What type of research activity is NHC participating in to really see the benefit or evaluate the need to take that route? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer that, so I'm going to get Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to life skills, it is

something that we have been looking at working with other departments because we are not really an education-oriented department in terms of providing that type of training. We definitely can speak to some of the skills that would be valuable for tenants and homeowners. We have actually looked at other jurisdictions. There are some videos, for example, for homeowners that the Yukon has prepared. We are looking at some of those online tools. In terms of more formalized training, that is something I think would be better served through Arctic College or Education. Those are things that we would tap into as we explore avenues in the blueprint for action. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I do understand that it is not the role of NHC from an education standpoint. Where I'm going with that is if smaller units were available in enough numbers that our youth would be able to educate themselves through life experience. That is where I was going with that. I'll leave that alone for now, Mr. Chairman.

It talks in the business plan about updating a new staff housing policy. Within that, it talks about encouraging members of the GN staff to transition into other housing methods, homeownership programs, and that type of thing. What work is being developed under this new policy to really stress to old and new employees that there are other alternatives than just staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The issue of (interpretation ends) staff housing (interpretation) as per his question is related to that, as these areas are part of the study as to what plans we have for staff renting units from the government. Encouragement is provided to try to get GN staff to build their own homes. However, (interpretation ends) staff housing (interpretation) issues will be revisited down the road, but we don't have anything written to date to respond with to the question, unfortunately. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Oh, Mr. Hickes.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I just had one more, but apparently I have two.

With the staff housing situation here in Iqaluit specifically, in my opinion, it is at a fairly critical need. I've had a number of constituents contact me that they have been on a staff house waiting list, in some cases, for years. I know your allocation committee does the best that it can with the resources allocated, and you guys are building staff housing units here in Iqaluit. Is there a light at the end of this tunnel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to that,

(interpretation ends) if you don't mind. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the first steps we did as we started this review was to try to refine our calculation of the need of how many people are still in need of staff housing. Of the vacant positions, how many are realistically expected to be filled? Looking at the new headcount that's being added in this budget, we actually worked with Education and got updated numbers on student-educator ratios.

You're correct. When you look at the numbers of need for staff housing, the GN's budget will not accommodate staff housing for all GN employees. There is no way that we can do that. That is why we're focused on trying to identify how we can get staff out of staff housing where they have been in staff housing for more than a few years. At \$18,000 per year, after three or four years, it starts to make a lot of economic sense to just give them an incentive to move into homeownership. That's what we're looking at now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just a reminder, we have translators. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the reminder. I appreciate that comment. I know that it is a challenging endeavour.

I'll move on. In the last point of the business plan from 2014-15, it talks to development of a long-term Inuit employment plan. It talks about mentoring and training opportunities. It

states that "One District Office is now using a three-year training program for beneficiaries." Why only one district office for starters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to this question, we would require proof that the employee is a (interpretation ends) beneficiary. (interpretation) However, we can certainly accommodate more beneficiaries in this program. It doesn't have to be just one. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, maybe I misunderstood the minister's response. It talks in the status that "Several beneficiaries have been offered mentoring and GN training opportunities, and are being trained to perform duties of increasing responsibility." It states, "One District Office is now using a three-year training program for beneficiaries." Again my question is why only one district office is utilizing the three-year training program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That's under NHC-7 of your business plan. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Ms. Kimball to reply to that. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, since that time, we are using that in others as we identify a beneficiary who is suited for the position who wants to take on the increased role. We have identified people who are available to train and bring that person along. Then we are assessing, depending on their skills going into the position, how long it's going to take and we put a detailed plan of how we're going to get that employee trained up and into the full scope of the role. I have seen it from a two-year plan to a three-year plan depending on the needs of the employee. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions with an option for four more.

Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) I want to ask this question and I enquired about this issue in this House to the Department of Community and Government Services in particular after our community underwent an emergency with service delivery, with freezing sewage tanks and overflows that were quite problematic. This is largely due to the fact that some communities don't have emergency procedures. My line of questioning was so that Nunavummiut and our hamlets would be aware of what to follow if they find themselves in the same situation, especially which departments would offer assistance.

My question relates to this issue: I know for a fact that hundreds of overtime hours were added to the operational budgets of the local housing authority to handle this emergency and the

maintenance workers worked non-stop. I am so grateful for their dedication during the Christmas season in particular, even reaching into January and February. Our community is indebted to these workers, but they are owed for this extra work.

The local housing authority had not planned for this type of emergency obviously, but I imagine they incurred a hefty sum of additional expenses. I hope that an emergency budget is set aside for events such as this to be provided to the LHO or if they will now have to come up with these extra funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Currently, with respect to the issue the member raised about the emergency situation in Pond Inlet that, due to the lack of services, resulted in frozen sewage tanks and the like, after the final tabulation has been completed with all related expenses finalized for the repairs and cleanup, NHC has determined that they will request the extra costs incurred to manage this event that occurred about a month ago. Once we have the figures from the Pond Inlet LHO on the extra costs, we can start to deliberate on our options. We are still waiting for the final costs related to that incident. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If any sister community goes through this type of emergency, just so they will understand the process, let me ask this question: do you first need the details from the LHO because

you may ask the LHO to fund this out of their own budget after you conduct a review? What exactly does NHC need to study? If the amount exceeds their budget by a certain amount, would you then pay the difference or if it doesn't, then they have to pay for the extra costs out of their own budget? What does NHC need to clarify before making a decision on providing financial assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The fact that this was an emergency and it had to be dealt with by crisis management is a fact. What we need to understand is the final costs associated with the crisis management that occurred. In those cases where the LHO had to pay for those costs immediately, they can (interpretation ends) claim (interpretation) that for the (interpretation ends) emergency (interpretation) they faced. It was crisis management of an emergency and the LHO had to resolve the issues as it became more of an (interpretation ends) emergency (interpretation) situation. We need the final figures in order to process their claims and get them reimbursed. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. His response was quite clear that the LHO won't have to pay for this emergency out of their limited funds due to the classification of the event as an emergency. Now that has been clarified, good.

For my next and final question, I raised this question to the Department of Community and Government Services about the associated cleanup that will be required. In Pond Inlet, the overflows are adjacent to a number of units, with some units actually suffering spillage in their interiors due to bursting pipes. This is visually disgusting as well as unhealthy, especially in light of the coming spring weather that will melt the groundcover exposing this unsightly mess. It also becomes a hazardous health concern with the spring warming.

I know for a fact that the Department of Community and Government Services has already indicated their plan of action, but what about the housing corporation? How are you going to provide assistance or through what avenue? What is your planned course of action prior to this issue becoming another safety hazard? Pond Inlet has a major cleanup project this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This situation is dire. That much is obvious based on your commentary. We are aware of this requirement for a major cleanup.

As the housing corporation, we will provide assistance wherever possible and assist the LHO by working with them. Obviously, this includes the municipal government and their departmental partners, the Department of Community and Government Services. This includes the (interpretation ends) municipality. (interpretation) We have to all work in

conjunction to complete the major cleanup required. We will be involved in handling this situation. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just two questions, the first one on page 8 of the 2015-18 business plan. It indicates that the rental revenue of the Nunavut Housing Corporation is approximately \$13.58 million. It also indicates that “Revenues collected are discounted 3% as an allowance for bad debt.” Can the minister explain the 3 percent formula, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman (Mr. Enook):** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister.

**Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kimball can provide a better response than I can, so I would like her to respond to Ms. Angnakak’s question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s based on the 97 percent target that we have set for a collection rate. That has been a target that has been in effect for quite a while. We have actually seen a number of LHOs that have been successful at collecting 97 percent or even higher. We have proven that that is a doable rate, so that is the rate that we have set. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. That now makes sense when I look at it.

I guess my last and final question is I would like to know how you prioritize which units require renovations. I have some constituents, for example, I was doing some door-to-door before the House went into session and I went into some pretty bad units with some elders and kids and everything on floors that are all ripped up. I don’t know. It broke my heart, really, to see what kind of conditions some people are living in, in their homes. It made me wonder: how bad does a public housing unit need to get before something is done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is part of the process we follow at NHC for renovation of our units. We look at the condition rating. Our local partners, the (interpretation ends) LHO, (interpretation) are responsible for identifying the condition. They have a (interpretation ends) condition rating system (interpretation) and the unit condition is rated. We follow that system to determine the priority list for renovation of units. As far as we understand it, the LHOs use this system to determine the (interpretation ends) condition (interpretation) of the unit, and then it is rated accordingly based on the extent of the damages. That determines the priority rating of the units. (interpretation ends) Thank you.



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

**Ms. Angnakak:** I know I did say it was going to be my last, but now since I have heard that response, I want to ask another question.

You said that there's a rating system. I'm assuming that the rating system in place has to be pretty stiff. I'm just saying that because of the conditions I saw and if nothing is done at that point, how bad...? I don't know your rating system, so I don't know. Can you give me an idea of when a unit would be addressed right away? What do they have to get at in order for that to happen, for that kind of action by the local housing association or organization? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the details of determining the age of the unit, I personally have no idea nor have I been briefed on the rating system. Perhaps if I can be allowed to refer that to Ms. Kimball so that she can elaborate on that, Mr. Chairman, with your permission. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the condition rating we use, we have each unit inspected once every two years and every component of the house is ranked from 1 to 3, and then it results in a mathematical formula that gives you a rating.

For example, Iqaluit overall is at 75.1 percent, which is lower than the average across the territory of 78 percent condition. We actually get that detail of the percentage rating for every single unit. The LHO would then take the units with the worst condition ratings and given how much M&I funding on an annual basis, they will figure out how many units they can repair and do that.

We do look at this when we're doing our M&I budgeting in terms of our ask for M&I's and how we allocate it between the different communities. For instance, if Iqaluit falls below average, then they would get a little bit more money because our goal is to get all of the communities to the same standard, to at least get the rating the same to make it equitable. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your answer. That helps me to understand how you go about determining renovations. I wonder: do you give any weight to, perhaps, an elder in a public housing unit? Would they get more weight versus maybe...? I don't know if that's how it works or not, but maybe you can explain what kind of system you have in place for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is under the mandate of the LHOs. (interpretation ends) They determine, so that's how (interpretation) they manage

the renovations the member raised in her question. Hopefully I was clear.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Are you done, Ms. Angnakak? The last name I have at this time on my list, which has just changed apparently, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Just a few questions on the business plan, NHC-13, regarding homeownership. One of my colleagues had asked, but I guess my first question here is, when you look at the Senior Citizens Home Repair Program, and I did ask about this in the House, but by various government departments, senior citizens' age requirement varies. My first question here is: what do you consider senior citizens? At what age? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. 60.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, we're not there yet. Please proceed.

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the prompt answer. When we look at objectives, on the third bullet on that same page again, "To work to improve the energy efficiency of private homes in Nunavut," as private homeowners are aware, to do energy efficiency, an audit is required. Will that be looked at across the territory or is there an action plan in place by the Nunavut Housing

Corporation to do various audits for private homeowners in each respective community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what they're called in Inuktitut, but we have the (interpretation ends) Energy Secretariat (interpretation ends) and it's under the responsibility of a different department. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. In reference to the homeownership programs, NDAP, TOP, the Home Renovation Program, the Tenant-to-Owner Program, the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program, I believe the minister earlier, when Mr. Savikataaq was asking about the threshold to be eligible for becoming a private homeowner... In Baker Lake, for these particular programs, is there a minimum and threshold to be eligible for private homeownership? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There is no minimum, but for Baker Lake, (interpretation ends) the threshold is at \$161,000. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When an individual who is in public housing, let's say, they are paying maximum rent, would they be considered possible eligible private homeowners or if they are near the maximum rent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as long as it is not over \$161,000. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you. I guess my last question here would be: is there a variance or is that \$161,000 applicable to NDAP, TOP, and the Home Renovation Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is true for all the (interpretation ends) programs (interpretation) as it would be the marker to determine that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The last name on my list, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for recognizing me again. I just have one question.

Yesterday, when we had the Department of Education at the witness stand, he indicated that there are 42 new positions coming into Nunavut, one to each community. By the sounds of it, these are highly trained, highly technical, and well-educated people.

Has the Department of Education requested for staff housing in every unit for this position? Earlier, you just said that staff housing needs cannot be met. I just want to know if the request has been made to your department from Education. Thank you.

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are on Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$183,856,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed that the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, we are done. How about you? If you have any closing

comments, I now give you the floor.  
Minister Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also want to show my appreciation to my colleagues for their excellent questions, although I had some difficulties providing responses.

I would be remiss not to mention my officials here at the witness table for providing clear responses to the questions.

That is basically all I have. On behalf of my officials, I thank each and every one here, including you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and your officials, for being able to provide proper responses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have concluded with the housing corporation, I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 6:

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 14
  - Bill 15
  - Bill 16
  - Bill 18
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) This House stands  
adjourned until Friday, March 6, 2015,  
at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:52*

