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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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(Hudson Bay)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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(Aivilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
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Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Environment

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Health; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for Immigration

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

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, October 26, 2015

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, 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, Mr. 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): Good afternoon. Mr. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) welcome.

Going to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 014 – 4(3):
Qikiqtani Inuit Association 40th Anniversary

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) on their recent milestone anniversary. As you know, QIA represents over 14,000 Inuit from the Qikiqtani region, from Quttiktuq to Sanikiluaq.

On October 6, QIA hosted a feast and concert at Inuksuk High School here in Iqaluit to mark their 40 years as a strong advocate for Inuit rights and values.

Mr. Speaker, QIA was formerly registered with the Government of Northwest Territories corporate registries in 1975 as the Baffin Regional Inuit Association. Since that time, they have worked tirelessly to promote social policy and lands management, as well as community and small business economic development and corporate development in the Qikiqtani region.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Nunavut's regional Inuit organizations is fundamental to the economic development and self-determination of our territory and our people. The Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani Inuit associations and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated are all partners with the Government of Nunavut in working together to make our territory a success. It's through our shared goals and hard work that we will make Nunavut a better place for our future generations.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating QIA on their first 40 years, and wish them all the best in the years ahead. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 015 – 4(3):
CITES Animal Committee
Decision on Polar Bear Trade**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back. I'll be making a statement on the CITES animal committee decision on polar bear trade. Mr. Speaker, today, I will discuss an important determination that has been made regarding international trade in polar bear parts.

(interpretation ends) Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, a group of international experts called the animal committee determines the impact of trade on a species. The animal committee recently conducted a review of the trade in polar bear parts. Their conclusion was that trade is not a threat to polar bear conservation.

(interpretation) This is welcome news for Nunavummiut. It confirms what we have known and been saying for many years.

Mr. Speaker, in both 2010 and 2013, attempts were made to uplist polar bears to Appendix I of CITES. This uplisting would have effectively ended international trade in polar bear parts. Department of Environment staff worked actively with co-management partners to oppose these proposed changes to CITES. (interpretation ends) The attempts to uplist polar bears are unwarranted and would have negative impacts on the livelihood of harvesters who rely on the economic value of a polar bear hide to supplement their harvest activities.

To be clear, this recent decision made by the CITES Animal Committee does not preclude a third attempt at uplisting polar bears in 2016, but it does give strong support to our position that trade is not harmful to polar bears.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Canadian stakeholders, including Nunavut, NTI, ITK, and the federal government, as well as our neighbouring jurisdictions, have collectively and successfully opposed previous attempts to list polar bear on Appendix I of CITES. (interpretation ends) It is our intent to use the decision of the CITES Animal Committee to successfully oppose a possible third attempt in 2016. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 016 – 4(3):
Senior Citizen Supplementary
Benefit**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit has increased from \$175 to \$200 per month. This increase is based on the current consumer price index and became effective April 1, 2015.

As of September, 521 eligible seniors are receiving this monthly benefit. Pensioners who are receiving the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement or

Spouse's Allowance will receive the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit.

My department would like to encourage all Nunavummiut to complete their federal income tax return so the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit will be automatically applied to their monthly allowance.

Strong support for our elders is a cornerstone of Family Services, and the supplement increase ensures that our elders can continue to enjoy a comfortable standard of living without sacrificing any of their basic needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 042 – 4(3): Baffin Fisheries Coalition 2015 Test Fishery

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, the television audience, and all the people of Nunavut.

I rise today to talk about very good news that has helped Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, in my community of Resolute Bay, the HTO co-owns the Kiviuq fishing ship. They are very happy in the community right now because they got good help. Mr. Speaker, it is co-owned by four communities that own two ships called the Suvak and the Kiviuq. The communities who co-own these fishing

vessels are Qikiqtarjuaq, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay through the Arctic Fishery Alliance.

This past summer, the Kiviuq did an exploratory fishery in Arctic Bay waters, a place called Akuliaqattaq. They did a sea-bottom survey looking at shrimp and snails. Mr. Speaker, there are things on the bottom of the sea that we didn't know were there. We had some people from our community learning how to work on the ship called the Kiviuq and we're proud of that. They were left with 25 buoys and if they want to, they can use them after the ice forms.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I didn't hear any nays. Please proceed, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement is almost done.

The Kiviuq also helped when people were hunting beluga or narwhals on the other side. There was bad weather and they got stuck. There were children there and they had run out of milk. The Kiviuq was able to go during a big gale to deliver help to those people and that ship really helped us.

We have been very grateful to the ship called the Kiviuq. There was a third instance where they took five hunters to Devon Island. Mr. Speaker, the Kiviuq has helped Arctic Bay a lot. We don't have any caribou and that really helped

us. We even had a feast of shrimp from the Kiviuq.

The Kiviuq is run by the HTO in Arctic Bay and benefits the HTO and the community. It also helps because freight rates are really expensive now. If I want to buy a boat or a snowmobile, the Kiviuq can bring it up for free. People ordering don't have to pay any freight at all. That really helps our community.

For Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord, the Kiviuq can bring up things for the stores and the prices don't have to be further increased. We're buying frozen food too and that really helps. We're really grateful to the Kiviuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 043 – 4(3):
Converting Children's Group
Home in Rankin Inlet**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to encourage the government to reconsider its plans for the children's group home in Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, this Assembly approved \$1.5 million to renovate the former children's group home in Rankin Inlet into a mental health transition facility. To date, no work has been done on this project, except for a consultant's site analysis, which indicates that even more money

will be needed to actually renovate the building.

It is not clear to me that this mental health transition facility is a capital priority based on an urgent and well-defined need. Mr. Speaker, Rankin Inlet is in desperate need of an elders home. At the moment, there are six Rankin Inlet elders living in facilities outside of the community and they want to be home. We have a well-established need for a known group of clients. The children's group home would be a perfect facility to convert into an elders home.

In addition, the need for a medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet has long been recognized. I have also raised this issue with the Minister of Health a number of times.

Mr. Speaker, the government needs to invest its resources where they are most needed. I appreciate that future plans for the Rankin Inlet Elders Facility may be in the works. However, the need is there now and the opportunity to meet that need exists.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government to reconsider its plans to renovate the children's group home in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 044 – 4(3): South Baffin High School Graduates of 2015

Mr. Joanisie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to everyone here and those listening and watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate six constituents of mine who attained their high school diplomas this year.

Mr. Speaker, in Kimmirut, two young men, Brian Padluq and Allan Kolola, completed their grade 12 requirements this spring. It was an honour to celebrate with them and the community in June, shortly after our spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, after the high school graduation ceremony, we were treated to some marimba music. It was very good music, courtesy of the staff and students at Qaqqalik School. I thank you all for a wonderful event.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, four individuals from Cape Dorset finished their high school studies. Carmen Rowsell, Arnakadlak Pootoogook, Taiann Hayward, and Josephie Sila celebrated with school staff, friends, community members, and family. We had a great celebration. That was just days before the Peter Pitseolak School caught fire and we were able to do that.

I'm glad we were able to come together and commemorate these individuals' achievements and I look forward to joining future graduate celebrations in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Member's Statement 045 – 4(3): Sanikiluaq's Table Tennis Team

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sanikiluaq Table Tennis Team, which travelled to Iqaluit to compete in a tournament from October 15 to 19 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, travel from Nunavut's remote communities is extremely expensive for our athletes and sports teams. It is a testament to their passion and dedication to their sport that, on top of their training and ensuring that they have good equipment, uniforms, and other gear, our athletes work very hard to raise the funds to enable them to travel and compete, which is no small feat in itself.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the table tennis team of:

Quetin Sala;
Johnassie Sala;
Eli Sala;
Jimmy Mickiyuk;
Mina Mannuk;
Alicia Arrarutaniaq;
Betsy Audla; and
Martha Novalinga

The chaperones were Noah Emiqutalak and Dora Kavik.

Mr. Speaker, after all their hard work, Sanikiluaq's table tennis players did well. I would like to congratulate

Johnassie Sala, who came in third, and Betsy Audla, who came in fourth in the tournament. Both of these players are listed as alternates for the Arctic Winter Games to be held in Greenland this coming March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Member's Statement 046 – 4(3):
PRIDE Celebration in Iqaluit**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back.

(interpretation ends) This past Saturday, I was honoured to be invited for the Iqaluit PRIDE and celebration event at the Storehouse. The event was the celebration of how far we have come as a territory and as communities.

I was very proud to be standing on the stage with Jack Anawak, who was my colleague when we were discussing and debating the Nunavut Human Rights Bill. I was very proud to reminisce how far we have come.

When we were celebrating at the Storehouse, a lot of people couldn't even make it in. There were too many people that wanted to come. I was very proud to be taking part in the celebration for everyone, as our territory is rather young, but at the same time, we're very welcoming of all those who come our way.

I want to thank the organizers of the PRIDE celebration and all those who took part. (interpretation) Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 047 – 4(3):
Successful Environmental Clean-up in Constituency**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate and show my appreciation. As we know, in our community, especially near Qikiqtarjuaq, they were cleaning up for many years on Inuit owned lands. When we signed to become Nunavut, there were huge parts of lands that needed cleaning up, especially DEW line sites. There are many of these sites around Qikiqtarjuaq. Qikiqtarjuaq is surrounded by DEW line sites and there were some near Clyde River. Those clean-ups have been completed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to show my appreciation to those who performed the clean-up. They also trained heavy equipment operators. Many people were trained on those machines working for those companies. They cleaned up very well. They built a bridge in Clyde River and they built a road to where Clyde River residents have cabins. They did some work around Qikiqtarjuaq and they built more roads within the community. They left behind HF repeaters and these were items that were needed in the community.

I truly appreciate them and I am proud of the people who returned the land to its natural state. There were huge tracks of

land that were contaminated and a lot of it has been completed today. The contaminated soil has been cleaned up along with the many old barrels. This was a huge concern within our community.

I rise here today to show my appreciation to the people who are now trained in heavy equipment operation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 048 – 4(3):
Opening of the Office of the
Representative for Children and
Youth**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome you on your return. I say "hello" to the residents of Aggu and my colleagues.

Friday night, I was able to attend the opening ceremony of the new office of the (interpretation ends) representative for children and youth. (interpretation) We met the staff and there are nine members. We celebrated with them for being able to open the new facility.

I would like to show my appreciation with my colleagues as this office is now open and it's obvious that they will be going to do their job. Minister Peterson has worked hard on this project, and I celebrate with him that we were able to open the office facility for the representative for children and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Member's Statement 049 – 4(3):
QIA's 40th Anniversary**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to show my appreciation for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for celebrating their 40th anniversary here in Iqaluit recently.

Three people were recognized and I was one of the people who collected the award on behalf of my late father. I wanted to show my appreciation to my late father, Siusaarnaaq, who was one of the people recognized. The late Pauloosie Kilabuk was also recognized, as was Simon Nattaq. They were given recognition awards for their help to Inuit.

Last weekend, we commemorated the ice that stuck around Iqaluit for a long time this summer. A lot of us were only able to get out by boats in the water in August. When my father's old boat, "Black Jet," was launched last weekend in Iqaluit, I wanted to announce it. That boat helped a lot of people in Iqaluit, and I am extremely proud and happy that they were able to feed a lot of walrus to Iqaluit residents over the weekend. I appreciate the hunters, although I won't mention their names, as well as the HTO that organized the event, as there were very many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 050 – 4(3):
Impact of Codeshare Agreement**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back. Before I go to my statement, (interpretation ends) let me begin by giving my belated birthday wish to our colleague, Mr. Rumbolt, who claims to be 36 all over again. I don't know about that, but I would like to wish him all the best.

(interpretation) Good afternoon to the people Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the impact that the recent codeshare agreement between the northern airlines has had on my constituents in the community of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that all of us understand perfectly well that it is very expensive to run an airline, and it is particularly expensive to run an airline in the north. We fully understand that airlines, like any private concern, have to make a profit to stay alive.

At the same time, many of my colleagues have joined me in pointing out the need to clearly acknowledge that air service is not a luxury; it's a necessity, which is why we need to identify the problems that codeshare has caused for our communities and constituents.

Mr. Speaker, when the codeshare agreement was launched in July, one of the major airlines publicly claimed that the new schedule would, and I quote,

“create immediate benefits for our Northern customers.” Mr. Speaker, I must say that I haven't seen any benefits myself.

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's Statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I didn't hear any nays. Mr. Enook, please proceed.

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

Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, I have heard numerous concerns from my constituents and fellow Nunavummiut about the different ways in which the codeshare agreement has actually made life significantly more difficult for ordinary people.

As recently as yesterday, somebody told me a story that all the passengers arriving from Rankin Inlet to Iqaluit were not allowed to take their suitcases. Is that a benefit? I don't think so. They were probably coming here to work and to attend meetings, but not one was allowed to bring a suitcase. Where in Canada does that happen? In Nunavut, they do that to customers.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to highlight some of the most critical areas today. I will be speaking mostly about Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the frequency of flights between Pond Inlet, Iqaluit, and Ottawa has been severely reduced as a consequence of the codeshare agreement. This has had a

ripple effect on everything from medical travel to cargo.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, residents of Pond Inlet travelling to and from Ottawa for medical treatment used to be able to get there and back in a single today. The recent reduction in service frequency now means that many of my constituents have to spend extra time in Iqaluit while in transit. Is this a benefit to customers? I don't think so.

Mr. Speaker, this, in turn, results in increased medical travel costs for the government, and we all know that this is an area that is already under severe pressure.

I would also note the concern and I have been told about medical supplies and samples not being transported in a timely manner or they're delayed, and these are daily requirements. Does this benefit the customer and my community? I don't think so.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot identify a single way in which codeshare has benefited my constituents or any resident of Nunavut.

We talk about the importance of food security and poverty reduction, but cargo costs are through the roof for everything since this codeshare agreement.

We talk about the importance of tourism as a sustainable source of economic growth. We get a lot of tourists in Pond Inlet, but how can we expect tourists to visit our communities when it costs less to fly to Europe than it does to come up north? It's way less.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I asked a number of questions to the Minister of Health earlier this year concerning the government's contracts for medical travel and duty travel. The hon. minister is also affected because he has already mentioned that it needs to be looked at again.

Mr. Speaker, although Nunavummiut recognize that the government does not directly control the airline industry, we also recognize that the tens of millions of dollars that the government spends each year on essential air travel gives us an important stake in this issue. I think that the government needs to be able to talk on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Member's Statement 051 – 4(3): 2015
High School Graduates of Whale
Cove**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see you back. Good afternoon, my fellow residents of Arviat, Nunavummiut, and residents of Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the graduates in Whale Cove at Inuuglak School. (interpretation ends) I am very proud of them for this accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say "thank you" to their families and to their teachers and staff at the Inuuglak School for their support.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I will say the names of the graduates in Whale Cove:

Blandine Qijuk;
Vanessa Siturak;
Kayla Jones;
Jolene Adjuk; and,
Marsha Qaugaarjuk.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtii*, I know it's not always easy today for our youth. I really want to say "good job" to these young people for all their hard work and I wish them all the best in their future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 052 – 4(3):
Nunavut Tourism Awards**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank you for the opportunity. Good afternoon to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut.

This Saturday, the Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to an event organized by Nunavut Tourism. I would like to thank the Minister of Economic Development, Minister Ell-Kanayuk and her husband for inviting us. We also had Hunter Tootoo, the new Nunavut MP-elect, our Commissioner, the Member for Baker Lake, the member for Niaqunnguut, and the member for Tasilik. At that time, we had discussions and a feast. I am very grateful, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 053 – 4(3):
Happy 75th Birthday to Johnny
Lyll**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, constituents in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone birthday for a very dear and good friend of mine that I have known for what seems like most of my life, and it is Mr. Johnny Lyll. He celebrated his 75th birthday earlier this month.

>> *Applause*

The interesting thing about Mr. Lyll, or Johnny, as most of us know in Cambridge Bay, is even though he has reached this milestone, he is still working. He's probably one of the hardest working guys in Cambridge Bay. Over his 75 years, he's had many careers. I know of some of them. He has been an Inuit special constable in Nunavut. He has been a fishing guide. He has been on the hamlet council. When I was mayor, he was a councillor giving me some good advice on things. He's a taxi driver now and you can always see him driving around town.

A few years ago, Johnny came to me with an important initiative in Cambridge Bay to recognize Inuit special constables from our community. We didn't have RCMP headstones. We worked together on that project. Of the four names that we identified, we got

headstones for three of them. It's very nice to drive by the cemetery and see those headstones there. I would like to thank Johnny for that support.

I wish Johnny a happy birthday and to the elders in Cambridge Bay and across Nunavut who will celebrate their birthdays this month. If you're still working and you're 75, I hope your boss gives you a day off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to recognize Cindy Twerdin. Welcome to the House. Cindy works at Canadian North and she is my constituent.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Nunavut Teacher Education Program students and their instructor from Nunatta Campus. In the visitors' gallery are the following students,

(interpretation) and please rise when I say your names:

Clara Akulujuk,
Madison Cormack,
Celina Kalluk,
Jimi Paton,
Geela Reid,
Megan Ungaalak.

(interpretation ends) Of course, their instructor is Margaret Pearce.

These students are currently taking the sociology of the family course and using as a resource, *Arnait Nipingit: Voices of Inuit Women in Leadership and Governance*. (interpretation) I ask the members to join me in congratulating these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an individual that was recognized already, my sister-in-law, Jimi Paton. Welcome to the gallery.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 047 – 4(3): Nunavut Suicide Crisis Announcement

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today and I have to make some comments today. I would like to direct my questions to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, this past week, we had discussions on suicide and I heard something that I really liked. You said that suicide was in crisis in Nunavut now. I would like to ask the Premier about the plans he has for suicide prevention in Nunavut.

What usually happens is that any program that's started is usually started in the larger communities. What about the smaller communities? Is it only when programs are set up in the larger communities that you will start thinking about suicide prevention programs in the smaller communities? I hope you understood my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking a question about that. Mr. Speaker, the other day, I stated that as soon as we meet in the next few days, we will know the chair and we will work on suicide prevention. It's not only in Rankin Inlet. We hope to meet with the people in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier very much. Suicide is of great concern to the territory of Nunavut and it's crucial that we set up some suicide prevention programs in Nunavut, both in the larger and smaller communities. I am very pleased that the Premier has already taken some initiatives.

We also have to think about the elders and their participation in the programs. There are Inuit out there who have never participated in any training programs, but they do know the traditional social skills and know how to deal with things such as suicide prevention. I would like to ask the Premier if he is going to have the elders participate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we set up the committee, we will have elders on the committee as well. As soon as we find out how much it's going to cost to put this committee together... .

(interpretation ends) Regardless of which community, we want to include all the communities in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, once the committee is set up and the coordination person has been set up, we will endeavour to ensure that all participants within the committee participate.

When it comes to training, we're starting the process of training the GLOs in the ASIST program and we intend to do that throughout. Again, once the committee is set up, we're going to include elders. For that very matter, we have included culture within the committee.

Of course, the committee is going to be chaired by the Minister of Health. From there, once everything is identified, we're going to be inclusive to all age groups and to all communities of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is something that's crucial and I'm very excited that we're taking the initiative to start working on suicide prevention. Of course, we have to factor in the cost, but it is of high importance to set up that program. We can't keep deferring it because there are going to be suicides in the coming years.

I would like to see in the year 2015 some suicide prevention and awareness programs during your term as Premier. I would like to see this crisis dealt with as soon as possible. There are a lot of us who have lost loved ones and relatives to suicides. I am urging the government to set up programs in the year 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you for that question. In the coming year, as soon as we find out the funding and once we have identified the processes and action items for Nunavut and for those who are having difficulties within our communities, we will look into this very carefully. In 2016, we will let you know for the people of Nunavut... .

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, once we have identified the processes and action items through the recommendations of the suicide inquest, we will certainly announce to the House during our winter session in 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 048 – 4(3): School Bus Inspections

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

Mr. Speaker, this summer, a Government of Nunavut public service announcement addressed the issue of school bus inspections. The announcement stated, and I quote, "The Government of Nunavut is ensuring school buses are safe."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the public service announcement indicated that district education authorities would have to submit completed school bus mechanical inspection certificates to the Motor Vehicles Division of the

Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Can the Minister of Education confirm that all district education authorities were able to submit the appropriate certification and, if not, what assistance does his department provide to ensure that the appropriate documentation is obtained and submitted? 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 that question. This last summer, on August 4, 2015, the Motor Vehicles Division from the Department of Economic Development did inspections on all buses and they said that they would complete a certificate inspection. This decision was made and I believe the member is asking in regard to that. In Cape Dorset, I know that there are two school buses. The smaller bus is used for people with disabilities and the other bus is regular. As I stated, they will require a certificate in order to be on the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his answer. Mr. Speaker, busing services are provided differently in different communities. In fact, in the community of Cape Dorset, the principal had a very hard time finding out which entity actually owned the school bus. Can the minister provide an update on how many communities

own their own school bus, how many school buses are owned by the Government of Nunavut, and how many school busing services are contracted to private companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member. It varies in different communities. In some communities, for example, in Iqaluit, R.L. Hanson operates the school buses. They have the contract. As I stated, the communities are different. In some, the DEAs are operating the school buses.

In Cape Dorset, for example, the DEA has the contract for providing school busing services. In the majority of communities, the DEAs hold the contract for busing services. The minority of them are operated by private businesses. As I stated before and using Iqaluit as an example, the busing services are provided by R.L. Hanson. In Pond Inlet, it is the Tununiq Sauniq Co-op that has the contract for providing school busing services. In Pangnirtung, Qijuk Construction Ltd. provides busing services. In Kimmirut, the community runs their own school busing service.

Let us be aware that if the communities require a bus, they need to have a proper space for buses. They have to estimate how many students there are and how far the school is in the community. Those are the criteria we use. I can also say that we are looking at which communities have older buses and we are doing a comprehensive review so that we can start planning for who will need new

buses in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): If you have a question, please ask one question at a time during question period. Don't ask more than one question at a time. Thank you.

Member Joanasie, please proceed.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the public service announcement I spoke of stated that the government will ensure school bus safety. I would like to ask the minister if he can confirm that this government is committed to paying for the repairs and maintenance necessary to keep our buses safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, the contracts vary from community to community. Sometimes the DEAs are responsible for providing school buses. In those cases, they need to monitor the condition of their buses. All the buses should be maintained properly and should be safe. If we are using their buses, they have to be maintained and they have to be safe for the children to use. That is our policy. As I stated before, the contracts for providing bus services in the communities vary, and the buses have to be safe in all communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions.

(interpretation) Member for Rankin Inlet, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Question 049 – 4(3): Converting Children's Group Home in Rankin Inlet

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's Statement, this Assembly approved funding to renovate the Rankin Inlet Children's Group Home, but to date, no construction work has been done. Can the minister provide an update on the current status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I had looked into this. The estimates were not exact, so they are now trying to produce a more accurate estimate to convert the children's group home into a mental health transition facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rankin Inlet is in desperate need of an elders home. Six Rankin Inlet elders are living in facilities outside of their community and they want to come home. Can the minister clarify what steps would be required to convert the

children's group home into an elders home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They already have a plan to make sure that this will be used for mental health and we will continue to proceed with our plan in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to infrastructure priorities, the community of Rankin Inlet needs an elders group home and a boarding home for medical travel clients. Will the minister commit to reviewing the plans to renovate the Rankin Inlet Children's Group Home and consider converting it to an elders group home or a boarding home instead of a mental health transition facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, the facility will be used for mental health transition. Mental health is very important and we need to move forward with mental health programs. This Assembly made mental health a priority and we are doing our part to support it. We will continue to work to achieve our target for a mental health transition facility and we need to provide support to the people who require

assistance when they're dealing with mental health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Question 050 – 4(3): Status of Fuel Price

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation) On October 21 of last year, the Legislative Assembly was informed that the price of fuel would be remaining stable. The annual fuel resupply season is coming to an end. The world price of oil has dropped. When will the minister be announcing this year's fuel price? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. I would also like to thank him when he was the minister. The global fuel price went down and he pre-purchased the fuel at a cheaper price. Yes, we're moving ahead with that and the delivery of fuel to the communities is coming to an end. We can say and we understand that we still have leftover fuel from last year and we're still using the old price for that. For the new fuel and diesel being delivered to the communities, once we know how much we have left over from

last year, we will come up with the price.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I was
going to say to my fellow residents of
Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet that
they are in my thoughts as we have lost a
loved one.

(interpretation ends) In recent years, the
Petroleum Products Division of the
Department of Community and
Government Services has worked to
reduce the price that consumers pay in
Nunavut through such strategies as pre-
purchasing supplies, as the minister
indicated in his first response. Can the
minister indicate how much money the
government has saved over the past year
through this strategy? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From our
understanding, around \$30 million has
been saved through pre-purchasing. It's
by buying cheaper fuel from last year.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the
minister clarify whether or not the price
that consumers and airlines pay in

Nunavut for jet fuel will increase or
decrease over the coming year? Thank
you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my
colleague for that question. Yes, we will
have to do that. Once we know all the
information that we have to know, we
will have to announce the prices for this
coming winter, if not this fall. Thank
you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Oral Questions. Member for
Uqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Question 051 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou and Polar Bear Studies

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. My question is
directed to the Minister of Environment.

Today, we are aware that caribou
hunting has been under a moratorium,
and we know that animals are studied.
Caribou and polar bears in particular
have been studied on our lands. Has
there been any planning or is there going
to be another caribou survey due to the
lack of caribou in the Baffin region?
Have you made any plans to do another
survey? That is what I would like to ask
the minister first. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. When there was a caribou hunting moratorium, NWMB was planning to hold a hearing and people were asking questions about the moratorium. We went through the moratorium and we had always told people that there would be another caribou survey in the Baffin. The survey started in September and that's how it is today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there is a survey or a study going on, they normally use helicopters to count animals. We are worried about that. Many people are worried about the use of helicopters to do surveys. The ones that are used are extremely loud. Stories have been told where polar bears that were surveyed by helicopter had bleeding ears from the loudness of the helicopter engines.

Mr. Speaker, the two-blade helicopters that they use are very loud, but three-blade helicopters are not as loud. Can we make sure that the two-blade helicopters are no longer used because their propeller noise is a lot louder than the three-bladed ones? They make animals' ears bleed. Will the same helicopters be used for wildlife studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Worrisome things that are used for studies like that,

airplanes or helicopters are used for that purpose. I can look into what he is talking about regarding the two-bladed helicopters. As to when that information came out, I will check to see if they are used or not. I can bring that information to the House once I get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the direct answer, Mr. Minister. Last year, they used snowmobiles to conduct their study. At that time, it was about caribou in the Baffin region. Will that be utilized again, doing land surveys along with air surveys or will this just be an aerial survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question, Member for Uqqummiut. Since this spring, I have been saying that the 2015 study, which started last month, will continue in October. There haven't been many snowmobiles used because of the conditions.

What I'm saying is that the caribou survey is just continuing in the Baffin. We were thinking more along the lines that caribou tend to herd in early fall. As I am the minister, I thought it would be the best time before they spread out all over the place. Right now, they're in herds.

Doing surveys on land by snowmobiles usually takes place during the winter.

After we see how the survey is going and once we get indications of how many caribou there are in the Baffin, we will give you more information as to the next part of the survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 052 – 4(3): Inspections of Domestic Heating Fuel Tanks

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment. We will keep him in the hot seat today.

On May 29, 2015, the minister tabled his department's 2014-15 report on its administration of the *Environmental Protection Act*. According to this report, the department completed 364 fuel tank inspections in Nunavut during the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Can the minister clarify if these inspections were only performed on government owned buildings or if his department also performed inspections on fuel tanks owned by homeowners within the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. That Act is for that purpose, for people's homes. It includes private homes as well. That program continues. Private homes are

included in that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In April of this year, a resident of Iqaluit was required to pay a significant amount of money to address a spill that occurred due to a malfunctioning fuel tank.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that under the current legislation and regulations, homeowners are responsible for "ensuring that heating oil tank and accessories are kept in good working order and are in compliance with current environmental and other regulations and codes of practice." However, not all homeowners have the expertise to inspect and recognize specific malfunctions within a heating oil tank system.

I also recognize that the department offers and provides free inspections of fuel tanks at the request of the homeowner.

Can the minister indicate if his department will consider performing regular inspections of domestic fuel tanks to prevent costly oil spills from occurring, on a regular basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The

environment has to be protected and homeowners are responsible. My staff went ahead and completed their work this summer. We have to be aware of the environmental risks and homeowners have to help because not everybody knows what's happening. The community HTOs or hunters or conservation officers can help along in this regard as well and they have helped in the past. In your constituency, people have had trouble with their fuel tanks, but this program has been running for the purpose of protecting the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. It's encouraging to hear his response. In 2011, the department issued a guide and I have a copy of it here. This guide is for homeowners. I guess it's to look at their heating oil tanks for homeowners in an effort to reduce the number of spills from domestic heating oil tanks.

Can the minister indicate what other initiatives his department is undertaking to inform homeowners of their legal responsibilities regarding heating oil tanks and spills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People have to be well aware of this. I can use myself as an example. I own my home and it has a garage separate from the house. I received a letter about that garage and

your question. I once went home and there was a notice saying that I had to contact a certain person and it had a phone number and address on it. Those are notifications of what we're talking about.

As to the situation you were talking about in 2011, I can look into that and respond to you once I get that information. I know that environmental protection is considered very important and the *Environmental Protection Act* has to be adhered to properly. I will look into the guide the department issued in 2011 that you were talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 053 – 4(3): Medical Examinations to Obtain Driver's Licences

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

Mr. Speaker, for motor vehicles special licences in classes 4 through 1, a medical exam is required for eligibility to receive a special class licence. I would like to ask the minister if the same medical exam and parameters are used across territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, where there is a medical requirement, the person that is requiring the licence

usually arranges it with the company involved and the company bears the cost of those exams. As to how they are administered, I can't answer that right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I caught most of it.

From what I understand, there is an agency that establishes the costs and that was kind of where I was leading to, Mr. Speaker. I recently had the opportunity of helping a constituent navigate a little bit through the process here in Iqaluit. In my research, I found that there is quite a substantial difference in costs of these medical exams across the territory.

An example, here in Iqaluit, it is \$64 to get this medical exam, yet in Arctic Bay, it is \$390, which is more than six times the cost it is here in Iqaluit. I was wondering if the minister would be able to explain the difference in costing from community to community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to get more details on the difference, so I will review this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe while the minister is reviewing the matter and the differences in cost and if there could be some way of standardizing this cost across the board so that the costs are fair for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I cannot predetermine what the costs will be for each instance, so I will review it thoroughly and make sure that we consider all options. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 054 – 4(3): Status of Sanikiluaq's New Sewage Lagoon

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

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the department received correspondence from the federal minister responsible for transportation concerning the new sewage lagoon location in Sanikiluaq. This correspondence indicates that the new sewage lagoon project is not exempt from the Sanikiluaq Airport Zoning Regulations and that the department will have to look at other locations for the project.

As the minister is well aware, the community of Sanikiluaq is located on the northernmost area of Flaherty Island,

with the ocean in front of the community and the community's freshwater source is directly behind the community. There doesn't appear to be many locations where a sewage lagoon can be constructed.

Can the minister indicate the extent to which the zoning regulations will limit possible locations for the new sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Yes, this required quite a bit of work because of transportation rules in Canada. My department is further reviewing this issue on what is being planned regarding his question, especially on how it would operate and exactly what would be needed to follow regulations. Moving forward from the project start, there will be... . Mr. Speaker, that's my answer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if it was lost in translation or not, but I did not really understand the answer that the minister gave.

Can the minister confirm if his department is currently working with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq in seeking possible locations for the new sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I just want to reiterate the first answer I have was that CGS is re-evaluating the planning for this project and conducting a thorough technical, operational, and needs analysis as well as regulatory review to determine the appropriate scope of work and the path forward. Also, we are working with the hamlet and we have informed the hamlet as we progress with this project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, this sewage lagoon project has been on the books for many years and has faced many delays.

Given the recent information provided by Transport Canada, can the minister indicate when his department plans to begin and complete the construction of this new sewage lagoon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we're doing a further review. On July 27, 2015, the Department of Community and Government Services worked on the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq and how we can do something on the side because it was

refused by Transport Canada before. It's moving forward right now. Once we have a definite answer, I can provide it to the member as soon as possible.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 055 – 4(3): Update on Arviat's Water Pump Station

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to keep the same minister on the hot seat. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions, I have raised concerns about Arviat needing an additional water pump station at its water treatment facility. To date, Arviat still has only one pump station, a slow one at that, which does not accommodate the demand for water delivery in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the municipality previously had all of its water truck tanks filled at the end of the day in order to begin water delivery as soon as possible in the morning and for backup for the fire truck. Now, to make matters worse, the municipality has recently been informed that these trucks must remain empty overnight. As a result, municipal services often are not met in a timely manner, and the amount of water that needs to be delivered in a day is not possible.

Can the minister provide a clear date by which the department will install a new water pump station in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Arviat for asking that question. Yes, I know the residents of Arviat have been concerned about water delivery for a long time. The water pump station is really slow and we have found that out. There was a study done on it that identified that this pump station needs to be replaced so the problems can be rectified. Right now, I can state that the study results on how it would be set up and the options available to the hamlet council are available now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister when a new water treatment plant will be installed and I didn't receive an answer at all. He stated that he knows there's a problem, he's talking to the hamlet, the hamlet knows there's a problem, and the people who never get their water in a day know there's a problem. What I asked him was: when are they going to get a new water pump station?

I have in my hand a letter from the minister stating that, and I'll quote him, "A planning study was completed in 2015, and the design of a new or upgraded water pump station will commence this fiscal year for anticipated tender in March of 2016." I'll ask the minister: is this tender going ahead by March 2016 for delivery of the new

water pump station by the summer of 2016? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only mentioned that the CGS has consulted with the hamlet council about the feasibility study and presented the design options to the hamlet to make sure the upgrades will meet their operational needs. (interpretation) With respect to what the state will be during the 2015-16 fiscal year, once that study has been completed and if funding is going to be available, the request for proposals will be made public during this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I still didn't hear an answer for my question from the minister. I heard a response and I think his response said that the work will go ahead if there's money. For clarity, I just want to know because the people of Arviat need their water like everyone else and we just can't do it anymore with the pump that's there. It's very hard. Is the minister stating that the tender is going to go out in March of 2016 for a new water fill station if the money is in the budget? Thank you.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I said that the design will start this year, 2015-16. When the design is completed and the funding is available, the project will be tendered for construction. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 056 – 4(3): Swimming Pools in Nunavut

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is important for the well-being of our communities and youth that residents have access to recreation facilities. This is an issue that I have brought up on more than one occasion because I believe that the construction of swimming pools would provide youth in Nunavut with more access to recreation activities during the summer. Access to a swimming pool would also allow communities to develop public safety programs to teach youth and adults to swim.

On March 10, 2010, the minister of the day tabled the department's *Swimming Pool Access Review*, which provides information on the feasibility and costs of constructing swimming pools in Nunavut.

Can the minister indicate if his department is currently looking into the

possibility of constructing new swimming pools in Nunavut? Did they do a feasibility study and costs of constructing swimming pools? Is it still in the works with your department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut, swimming pools are in operation in some of the communities. Since this was brought up in 2010, I can't really answer your question, but I will look into it and take this question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 057 – 4(3): Need for Improved Adult Basic Education

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Uqhuqtuurmiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, a key focus of the government's *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate is education. However, it does not seem to be a true priority. Nunavut Arctic College's community learning centre in Gjoa Haven has empty classrooms this fall with very little planned to follow the recently completed NTEP program.

Will the minister commit to delivering more pre-employment training programs in Gjoa Haven this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (Interpretation) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. There are 10 other communities that have the NTEP program and they used to have the NTEP program in Gjoa Haven. We do keep urging Arctic College to make sure they deliver the programs. Sometimes we ask for particular programs, but we are unable to provide them due to a lack of instructors or some other deficiency in the program. We would like to see more Inuit teachers in Nunavut. We don't close the programs. They are open and accessible in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Literacy is a critical issue for Nunavut. Studies have shown that more than half of Nunavut's working age population struggles with serious literacy challenges. Can the minister describe what kinds of literacy and adult basic education programs could be offered at Nunavut Arctic College's community learning centres to help Nunavummiut meet the minimum levels required for them to get jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for asking this very important question regarding literacy in Nunavut. It is one of the priorities of our department and Nunavut. We are currently reviewing our programs at Nunavut Arctic College and what is available and how we can improve them. We are looking at other options and avenues currently not being used. It is very true that literacy is a critical issue and this is high on our priority list in the department.

I would like the members to be well aware that literacy is one of the top priorities. You have to be able to read and comprehend in order to be able to access jobs. There are different programs being provided. There is adult basic education, which is a priority in the programs if they're going to be furthering their education. I would like to reiterate that literacy is a critical issue within our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Far too many Nunavummiut do not have the minimum level of skills, such as numeracy and literacy, required for them to participate in a modern knowledge-based economy. What commitments can the minister make to the residents of Gjoa Haven to improve their opportunities to receive the kind of training and education that they need to help them get jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for lobbying the government regarding adult education and literacy, which is important. I urge all communities, as they all have adult learning centres, to provide more options for Arctic College students to utilize the programs that are made available. It's open to anybody in the community. We will be doing promotional work in order to use the adult learning centres.

Also, Arctic College centres usually ask the residents about what types of programs they would like offered in their community. They ask those types of questions so that they can facilitate what is needed at the community level. They would like to see what the priority is and what the needs are. They are available. Arctic College is very open in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Motion 006 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Tununig, that the time allotted for Oral Questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed.

>>Laughter

The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes. (interpretation) Going back to the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

>>Laughter

Question 058 – 4(3): Tax Policy

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

As the minister is aware, we have a producing gold mine near Baker Lake, a producing iron ore mine near Pond Inlet, and a new gold mine coming into production, we hope, in the near future near Rankin Inlet.

Earlier this year, the minister delivered his annual Budget Address and released the government's annual set of *Fiscal and Economic Indicators*. This publication stated, and I quote, "It is important to note that mining firms themselves will likely not pay much income tax in the short term, as Canadian law provides significant flexibility in terms of when and where mining companies pay taxes."

Can the minister indicate whether or not he will be lobbying his new federal counterpart to change this aspect of federal tax law? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the motion to extend question period to get at me.

Mr. Speaker, the new government was only elected last week. It hasn't been sworn in yet and I don't know who the Minister of Finance will be. That particular issue isn't something that's on my radar.

As I have explained before in the House, for these large mining companies, multinational, international mining companies, their head offices are located elsewhere and it's very difficult for us to collect corporate taxes. One of the mechanisms that we do have to use is payroll taxes, which we have been availing ourselves of over the years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just flowed right into my next supplementary question here. Can the minister provide the House today with a rough approximation of how much revenue has been raised by the Government of Nunavut in corporate income taxes paid directly by mining companies over the past five years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't provide that level of detail right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's annual set of *Fiscal and Economic Indicators* also indicated, and again I quote, "As the sector continues to develop we expect the firms in Nunavut that support mining (construction, logistics, transportation, etc.) will generate higher profits and tax revenues." Can the minister indicate whether he is presently considering making changes in his 2016 budget to the corporate income tax rates paid by companies operating in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, the Government of Nunavut, all departments and territorial corporations are currently working on our budget projections and have been working on them for several months and we will continue working on them.

I assure the member that we will be taking a close look at all the taxes that we collect from our various tax programs to see what taxes we will be getting from corporate taxes, payroll taxes, personal taxes, tobacco taxes, fuel taxes, and all other kinds of taxes. I can assure Mr. Mikkungwak that we're working on all of those areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 059 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment. My questions will be based on the *Blues* for Friday, October 23. I know the *Blues* are not the final *Hansard*, but I will base my questions on page 21 of the Inuktitut version.

We are all aware that in Nunavut, in the Baffin region, we have had problems with caribou hunting and there's a caribou moratorium. We would all like to know what the future holds for that.

In regard to a question a member asked on page 24 in English and on page 21 in Inuktitut *Blues*, Mr. Hickes had asked a question regarding the caribou moratorium or caribou harvesting. Let me read the response. Minister Mike responded by saying, and I quote, "We have been working on wildlife legislation in regard to caribou on Baffin Island." Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister: what is that trying to say? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't really remember Mr. Hickes' question in detail. I didn't re-read the *Hansard* and I don't remember exactly what the question was. Therefore, I don't remember the response I had given.

I believe what I was trying to say was that the caribou moratorium was initiated before the new *Wildlife Act* or

regulations were enacted. After the new regulations or legislation was enacted on July 1, for the first time in Nunavut, we started enacting and using the new wildlife legislation. At the time when I announced the caribou moratorium on January 1, we were using the old Nunavut legislation. I believe that at that time, I was trying to allude to the Nunavut legislation, the new *Wildlife Act*.

However, I can't really recall in detail what question was posed and I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I'll ask it from a different angle. In the Baffin region, we have 250 TAH for caribou. My question is: once the 250 TAH has been depleted, what occurs after that? Is there going to be another moratorium on caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held hearings in regard to Qikiqtaaluk wildlife and they consulted with the Baffin region people in March. We work with other co-management partners in wildlife. They considered 250 tags for the total allowable harvest of caribou. That was the recommendation made by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. They didn't state if they will make any more tags available, but the total allowable harvest was 250 for male

caribou. Once the tags have been depleted, if there was no change in the decision, the new fiscal year begins on July 1 and then at the end of the fiscal year, there will be another 250 tags available at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we're all on the same page and so we will all have the same understanding, once the 250 caribou tags have been depleted, if there's no other decision made prior to July 1, we will no longer be able to harvest caribou. Is that what the minister is saying? Who is going to make a decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier when there was a question posed in regard to caribou management, since last month, we have been doing a study or survey and once we get the results, we will have a better idea. They're going to analyze the survey results. Once we finish analyzing the survey or report, they can make a decision prior to July 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to ask

another question. I believe today is the Minister of Environment's day, so I would like to direct my question to him. Though I understood Mr. Enook's questions, I do have an additional question on the same topic.

I understood what the minister said. I know that we are only allowed to harvest male caribou. Why did they set that rule? Elders were not considered when they made that decision and I am not very pleased about that because we harvest the caribou and we like to have caribou that the elders crave. Who made the decision to harvest only male caribou, and why is it that we only harvest male caribou? Does the department believe that when we harvest female caribou, their population would start declining? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. As I stated before, during the hearings of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on Qikiqtaaluk caribou, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board invited the knowledge-holders of caribou, which are elders. They were invited to the caribou management hearing. The HTOs of the Baffin region and the RWO of Qikiqtaaluk were invited. Government officials were also invited as well as representatives from NTI. They all went to the NWMB hearing.

I believe and I trust that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board followed the comments or the submissions that were made by the other parties because they recommended that they only

harvest male caribou. That's how the decision came to have an all-male TAH of 250 caribou. The recommendation was made to my department from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board through the hearing process. I believe that the figure and the decision came out through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his good response. I have a "but." Although I understand it was based on the people who made the recommendation or decision, according to Inuit traditional knowledge, we shouldn't be overly concerned in regard to caribou management in the Baffin region. Prior to me being born, there were no caribou for the first 15 years of my life. There were no caribou in Nunavut and we didn't eat caribou meat for all those years.

There's one thing as a government that we should take note of. I have seen old female caribou. They have very good meat, but now during the mating season, they start losing their fat and the meat will not taste as good. The old female caribou will be nice and fat, and they are very delicious. Sometimes they're so old they have very good antlers, like the bull caribou.

For that reason, what I would like to see is when the TAH of the 250 caribou have been depleted, perhaps include the harvest of dry cow caribou and put a TAH on that so that we can provide good food for the elderly who crave it,

or get them to actually harvest calves. Would we be able to harvest those kinds of caribou before the moratorium is lifted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for explaining that, my colleague. From my late father, I have heard about the previous caribou moratoriums. They were told in those years not to harvest females. That was before I was born, obviously. We have heard that from many years ago.

Today, when we work under agreements, the Nunavut government cannot make rules for animals on its own now. We can say and do all sorts of things, but then we have all these agreements, including the land claims agreement, that we have to adhere to. As a government, we are no longer able to do things on our own as to what kind of caribou should be harvested. That's because of the land claims agreement that was agreed to by Inuit.

There was a hearing this past winter in March, and obviously *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* about caribou and wildlife was considered and applied. There were people who went to the hearing and spoke, and what they said was considered. There were elders there that went to speak. Let us be more aware that in your own communities, whenever there is going to be a hearing scheduled or a consultation on Wildlife Regulations, I want to hear about it.

With concerns from the communities, it is NWMB that is supposed to be one of

the first groups to be notified when there's a concern about wildlife, and that's in the land claims agreement. Because of that, that's the way it is and that's why I am saying that.

I totally understand what the member is saying. However, as a government, we cannot make our own decisions now when it comes to that kind of issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. As a government, we try to work very hard for the people that we represent, but then there is the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and we have to follow their decisions too. Let's consider this very carefully in the future.

I am not concerned about the depletion of caribou at all. They're not going to be depleted. I can even say that on this issue, animals fall from heaven when we're in these kinds of situations. Let's take good care of the issue and while you're the minister, make sure you think about and consider the people's concerns. If things need to be fixed, involve the people of Nunavut and facilitate it as the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. Going back to the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

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

go back to Item 5 before I ask my question.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking... I'm sorry. Due to the extension of question period and the lack of time, I have to turn you down. Do you have a question? Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 061 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the question I wanted to ask was already posed, but this aspect was not asked and I'm directing it to the Minister of Environment.

We're talking about caribou management today and the comments that were made about caribou are understandable. I would like to ask the minister: how many of the 250 tags taken for the male caribou that were supposed to be harvested have been harvested? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last notice I was given was that 61 caribou have been harvested to date and they were mostly harvested in South Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of the 61 caribou that have been harvested, how many were male caribou and how many of them

were female and calves? Are the caribou that have been harvested all male? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I know from my office, it's only 61. That's the only number. There's no indication of other sexes other than male. I expect them all to be male. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People out there are listening. Many of them are very interested in hearing about the caribou that are being harvested. We have been told that we're only allowed to kill the males. The people listening right now and watching on TV are really interested in hearing how many males have been harvested. Can't you give us that information at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our wildlife co-management partners, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and the community HTOs, allocated the 250 tags and nine communities can get 30 and one community can get 10. It's taken care of inside the communities and also by QWB and they are keeping track of the caribou that are being harvested. The

communities hold the tags and only one community has 10 tags while the others have 30. It is being handled by QWB and once I have newer information, I will be able to inform the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 062 – 4(3): Status of Hospital Board of Management Review

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, almost exactly one year ago, the Minister of Health committed to undertaking a review of the merits and benefits, logistical, administrative, and financial aspects of a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital. That review was to have been completed by the fall of 2015. Will the minister be tabling the results of that review during the current fall 2015 sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I believe that study has occurred and that we will be moving forward with some of the recommendations and reviewing the options of the study. I appreciate my colleague's efforts in this area and I look forward to introducing that in the near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. That is a wonderful response to hear. I'm very glad to hear that and I think we all look forward to seeing that report.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at length in this House regarding the importance of improving quality of care for those receiving medical services in Nunavut. Can the minister update this House on how his department works towards assessing, evaluating, and improving the quality of care at the Qikiqtani General Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe there is a body that is established to accredit hospitals and they did a study not long ago. I'm very pleased to see that they gave us wonderful marks on how we're doing at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. I hope I can share those findings and I look forward to more good work in this area with a new body that hopefully we will establish through the motion.

I also want to acknowledge that it's not just here that we have to look after. We have to look after the well-being of all health facilities in our territory, so we're progressing in that direction. I look forward to more good work with my colleagues in this field. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 063 – 4(3): Status of Nunavut-wide Strategy on the Responsible Use of Alcohol

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked questions last week to the Minister of Health concerning the status of addiction services in Nunavut. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

On Friday of last week, the Department of Finance issued a request for proposals to develop a “Nunavut-Wide Strategy on the Responsible Use of Alcohol.”

The department of Finance’s RFP indicates that its purpose is to, and I quote, “develop and implement a multi-year strategy to help raise awareness and educate Nunavummiut on the socially responsible use of alcohol.”

Mr. Speaker, the RFP also indicates that the Department of Health is, and again I quote, “in the process of rolling out an extensive alcohol- related campaign.”

Can the minister clearly explain what the different roles and responsibilities are of the Department of Finance and the Department of Health in this area?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation) I apologize. (interpretation ends) Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for

the question. I’m not very up to date on checking RFPs. On Friday afternoon, I was in a meeting for about three hours myself. I think I was with Mr. Mikkungwak actually.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the RFP is expected to close on November 20. Of course, the Department of Finance is responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Commission and our focus will be on the program of social responsibility. I can’t talk now.

>>Laughter

I was in a meeting this morning for three hours, so I’m losing my words here.

Socially responsible drinking, that’s what our focus will be. Our programs will be in that area. The Department of Health, of course, will be looking into areas of addictions and the treatment of people who have problems with alcohol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The RFP also indicates that the government’s new strategy will, and I quote, “need to include ways to engage and strengthen the role and mandate of the Alcohol Education Committees currently operating in 14 Nunavut communities.”

As the minister will recall, I asked him detailed questions earlier this year at our House sitting of March 3 concerning the support provided to alcohol education

committees. At that time, the minister publicly stated that he was, and I quote, “considering providing funds to alcohol education committees in the new year.”

Can the minister tell us today what funding is currently provided by his department to alcohol education committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Speaker, of course, I don’t remember every detail of every answer that I was ever asked in every sitting of every day in the last eight years. I will have to tell Mr. Mikkungwak that I don’t specifically recall what I said that day.

I do recall meeting with the chairs and some of the members of the alcohol education committees on Friday afternoon out in the foyer here. I was hoping that they could come and I could introduce them in the sitting and the valuable work that they do. Mr. Speaker, they were here to talk about how they can support their communities and work the Department of Finance and the Nunavut Liquor Commission to raise awareness of being socially responsible for the use of alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, we currently support them with materials and bringing them in for meetings. Our Nunavut Liquor Commission supports them from Rankin Inlet. We are still considering providing them with some funding to assist them locally. I do recall saying that to Mr. Mikkungwak and that’s still our

intention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was referencing his document, but at the same time, my supplementary question was referencing the *Nunavut Hansard* of Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

The stated purpose of the department’s RFP is to promote the “socially responsible use of alcohol.” As the minister is very much aware, some of Nunavut’s communities allow unrestricted access to alcohol, some communities restrict access to alcohol, and some communities prohibit the use of alcohol altogether. From the perspective of the government, is prohibition of alcohol an effective way of addressing the harm caused by substance abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, we always have respected the wishes of the communities and that’s why, when we receive petitions from the communities to hold plebiscites, whether it would be restricted or controlled or open, we respect the local decisions. Of course, we need 20 signatures on a petition and then it comes to cabinet.

Our Nunavut Liquor Commission and Nunavut Elections work with the local community to develop the question and then they have an advance poll and a

vote on specified days. Whatever the outcome is, to my knowledge, we have not gone against the wishes of the community. For the foreseeable future, that's the way we will continue to operate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed to Item 7. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we continue, I would like to go back to Item 5.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Uqqummiut is asking to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? I didn't hear any nays. Please proceed, Mr. Keyootak.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you my colleagues.

At this time, I would like to recognize visitors in the gallery. My son-in-law, Aimo Kooneloosie, was involved when I recognized Joanasie Kooneloosie and family on the assistance they provided during a crisis. I would like to recognize him while he is here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special

Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kuksuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 017 – 4(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation's Proposed New Construction List for 2016-2017

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed new construction list for 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Tabled Document 018 – 4(3): Photograph of Chesterfield Inlet Air Terminal Building

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Thursday's proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, I committed to tabling photographs of Chesterfield Inlet's current air terminal building. As I have noted on a number of occasions, the ATB is in urgent need of replacement. I encourage all members to review these photographs with care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Notices of Motions. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) That was Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

Bills 1, 2, 3, and 6 and Tabled Documents 107 – 4(2) and 149 – 4(2) with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 16:05 and Committee resumed at 16:33*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day, residents of Baker Lake and Nunavut. I will now call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, and Tabled Document 107 – 4(2), and Tabled Document 149 – 4(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 3 and the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we first deal with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 03 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2016-2017 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Steven Hooey, Chief Operating Officer for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my right is the president of the corporation, Ms. Lori Kimball. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to the House, Ms. Kimball and Mr. Hooey. We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. L-3. (interpretation) Following the names on my list, Mr. Akoak. He has completed his question. Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I ask a question, I would like to give credit where credit is due. When I did my opening comments, we expressed concern about the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan to consolidate the \$4 million in funding for homeownership programs into one line item in the budget. On October 21, a letter was given to us stating that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has decided that they will no longer make this adjustment and continue with the percentage across the territory. I just wanted to recognize the officials for making that adjustment.

My first question is more of a clarification question. From reading the *Hansard* from Friday, Mr. Akoak asked a question in regard to where public housing and staff housing was going to be situated for the 2016-17 budget. In the minister's response, he stated several communities for public housing and several for staff housing. It's not quite the same as the document that was provided to us. For public housing, he did state the right communities, according to the document we have. I'm wondering if he can state for the record exactly which communities will be getting staff housing under this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The following communities that are identified to allocate staff housing units for 2016-17 are as follows: we have Arctic Bay, five units; Gjoa Haven, five units; Coral Harbour, three

units; Hall Beach, four units; Igloolik, five units; Kugaaruk, five units; Kugluktuk, five units; Naujaat, seven units; Resolute Bay, two units; and Sanikiluaq, two units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his clarification and it matches the document that was provided to us.

There has been a lot of talk about land acquisition for units throughout the territory. I'm wondering if the minister can confirm today that land has been acquired for all this construction for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all have been confirmed except for the four communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry if I missed it, but he said "except for the four communities." If he said, "except for the four communities," which communities is he referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Please identify those four communities. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Myself, I'm not sure which communities they are, but

Mr. Hooey has a list of which communities, so I will get him to answer that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hooey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question as well. We have confirmed land in the vast majority of communities on the list. There are a couple of communities where we are still waiting for a confirmation of which lots they are going to be.

In Sanikiluaq, we have not confirmed lots, although we are looking for a lot for a duplex. We believe that we are likely to obtain lots and we will be able to do that. As well, we are still confirming lots in Hall Beach. There are lots available currently and we are just working with the hamlet to confirm those. The last community, I believe, is Whale Cove. There are lots available, but they are not the exact lots we would like to put the houses on.

Those are the communities and those are both public and staff housing where we are still working on land acquisition and we're confident that we will be able to move forward with those communities as well, but it will take a little bit of extra work coordinating with CGS as well as the hamlets to ensure they are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I would like to remind all members to have your cellphones on silent mode. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification's sake again, when Mr. Hooey was responding

about which communities they were still working on land acquisitions [for], he mentioned Whale Cove and Whale Cove is not on the list that the minister stated a little while ago. So if he could please verify which community he is talking about. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please clarify your response, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Mr. Hooey to (interpretation) confirm which ones. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hooey: Sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that clarification. It's Coral Harbour. I tend to mix those two up in my head sometimes and my apologies for that. That is, in fact, Coral Harbour. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. It's not Whale Cove; it's Coral Harbour. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to change the subject a bit, I want to go back to what Mr. Hickeys was questioning on Friday and leave it at that for a minute.

The issue of residency requirements for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's programs... . As of today, if you move to Nunavut from any other part of Canada, you have to live here for a full year before you are eligible to vote in the territorial elections. However, you are eligible for significant financial assistance from the housing corporation

under such programs as the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program from the moment you step off of the airplane. Can the minister explain how this is fair and reasonable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the residency requirement, let me look for it in my documents. Ms. Kimball has the proper page, so I will refer that question to her, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two key things that we're keeping an eye on. At this point, we have not denied any applications for NDAP due to lack of funding. We've had enough funding to accommodate everybody that has applied that has been eligible and have met the qualifying criteria.

The other thing to keep in mind is that when someone comes into staff housing, the cost to the Government of Nunavut is an average of \$18,000 per year. If someone comes up and is not a resident and accesses the NDAP program, 100 percent gets paid back to the Nunavut Housing Corporation if they leave within five years.

There are two things. It accomplishes helping the recruiting process, but it also accomplishes retention with the GN. In the end, it is a better deal for the Government of Nunavut to just advance

\$30,000, which is the maximum for NDAP, if it is going to get 100 percent back in five years as opposed to paying \$18,000 per year over those same five years if the person stayed in staff housing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still think and feel deeply that there should be a residency requirement for this program. You said that, for example, if somebody moves into the community and they get this program and they leave within five years, then they have to pay a 100 percent back to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Now, in some communities, the housing market probably increases in the three or four years to the point where the person selling their house couldn't care less that they have to pay 100 percent back because the amount that they get for the home probably outweighs the amount that they would have to pay back. Again, do we think that's a fair thing to do? I would just like the minister to comment on whether or not they would relook at this policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Regarding the housing programs and homeownership programs, people can apply for it no matter how long they have lived here. Possibly it's up to us to review this policy, but we have not made any changes so far and I can't tell you

what our decision would be. However, we would be more than willing to review it. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would hope they do relook at this and maybe get back to the committee at a later date on this decision on which way they would go and explain exactly why they want to go one way or another.

Just to change the question a bit, we always talk about the building of new homes and the money needed for public housing, and it seems like we're forgetting the housing stock that we have. I'm mostly concerned about the older units and the M&I funding that's allocated to communities each year. It seems to never change and it never increases, but our houses are getting older and deteriorating more each year.

I'm just wondering if they could explain what their plan is to update or upgrade our oldest stock so that they're more usable for the tenants because it seems like these older units are getting very cold and the cost of maintaining and heating them is going up every year. Every time the wind blows, people are complaining that they just can't keep it warm anymore. I'm just wondering if the department can explain what their plan is for these older units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)
Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are quite a lot of older units in the communities, but due to the severe housing shortage, we have to utilize those older units and through the \$6.3 million set aside for the M&I projects, it's staying at status quo. Yes, the older units should be renovated. Our expenditures would go up and there would be fewer monies to build new units. We have not identified additional funds through the M&I project. We're going to leave it as is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that there is a housing shortage in Nunavut and we all know that we have to keep using these older units. We can't just tear them down. My point is that no money is being spent on them. I think you've got an average of about \$150,000 to \$180,000 that goes toward M&I dollars for these units. There are a lot of units in our communities that require drastic attention.

My question was going to be: when are you going to look at this as a priority and start investing more money into these older units so that they don't start deteriorating to the point where they just aren't usable anymore? I think with some of these units, it's going to be fairly soon if they don't pay some attention to them. If the minister would comment on that, please. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I understand the member's question clearly. As I stated, approximately 50 percent of our units in Nunavut are over the age of 25 years. The funding we're using has been appropriate to the number of units that need to be renovated for M&I. It's \$6.3 million for 25 communities for M&I work. I agree with the member wholeheartedly because some units are more than 25 years old. We will continue to do M&I work on those older units.

The condition rating has been updated to have better priority plans. I believe that we can see the results from there. That way, we will have a better idea as to how many units will require renovation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. L-3. Following the list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk and your officials. I'll start off with your opening comments in regard to the Tenant-to-Owner Program that has been improved. Would this program start right away? What changes have you made to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There was a change in the Tenant-to-Owner Program. We now have a program for the tenant to owner. I'll read

them so that you can have a better understanding.

(interpretation ends) Affordability determination revised and supplemented, including alignment with other homeownership program affordability considerations, this will maintain consistency and help to ensure a client's affordability and ability to maintain a home.

(interpretation) This is also included, (interpretation ends) the age of eligible units increased from 10 to 15 years.

(interpretation) That is one.

(interpretation ends) This reflects the reality of Nunavut's aging housing stock and to ensure that newly constructed public housing units are not sold prematurely.

(interpretation) Thirdly, (interpretation ends) provisions concerning NHC setting house sale price valuation to add a level of fairness and consistency to the application of the Tenant-to-Owner Program. The previous guidelines allowed NHC to set the value of the sale without any guidance or direction. (interpretation) Those were the changes on the Tenant-to-Owner Program.

I hope that's clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I also want to get clarification. Have you started identifying within the Nunavut Housing Corporation the units that can use the Tenant-to-Owner Program? Have you identified the individuals or tenants that can access

that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the member's question, it was just recently approved, so we're just starting to communicate with the applicants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to another item, although there were some questions posed in regard to the M&I program, the funding has not changed for this line item for quite some time. In your substantiation sheet, it indicates that the funding was divided among the three regional districts. A condition rating is also included. How many units are there in the communities? Will this continue? If we look at the new public housing units, it states that there is \$527,000 for one unit. That amount of funding can provide an M&I program for at least ten units. Have you ever considered that kind of thinking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. I'll have Ms. Kimball provide a proper response. Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The aging stock is something that we're very concerned with at housing. That's why we have done a renovation to our condition rating software. Part of the M&I process every year is we do have our district offices consult and work with each of the LHOs to address what should be priority, working with what's in the system, but also talking to LHOs.

We do recognize that we have added a significant number of housing units since the Nunavut Housing Trust, which started back in 2006. We're coming up onto almost ten years. At some future point, we do recognize that this number is going to have to grow. At this point, we're still basically working with the original set of units and we have been able to keep up on the M&I's that we're seeing coming through the condition rating system.

In total, we have \$10.6 million a year because we do still receive almost \$4.3 million from CMHC every year as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In support of my colleagues, if we can increase the M&I program funding... As I stated earlier, I know that we will need to construct new units, but there are numerous units that need M&I work, perhaps in the majority of the communities. I believe that there are empty units in most of the communities of Nunavut. Perhaps we should focus more on empty units rather than constructing new units because it costs over \$500,000 to construct new

units. Perhaps you can actually improve and do more work in five units. Can you commit to focusing on that area of work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand the question. Yes, we would gladly look into as to how much funding is used for improvement work and for the costs of constructing a new unit. Yes, we're willing to look at the comparison prices on that. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on the modernization and improvement retrofits, everyone knows that there a homeownership program to replace heating oil tanks. That's for homeowners, but for public housing units, is it part of M&I or is there something else that deals with public housing oil tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the case. You understood it clearly. For the fuel tanks, there is the program for the homeowners if they want to get a new fuel tank. For public housing units, fuel tanks are also under the M&I program. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to that, every house has appliances and fixtures. I'll use an example of the O&M cost of maintaining a public housing unit is about \$23,000 a year. It has been said that water is one of the highest costs. Have you looked at, for example, toilets that use less water? I think they're called dual flush toilets. Have you ever looked at that or do a pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank my colleague for asking that question. I can't respond to that myself on the working of toilets or using different types of toilets that use less water. I would like Ms. Kimball to explain that if she has heard about it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Energy efficiency is something that we look at when we're doing our designs. I know that we have looked at more efficient toilets, for instance. I don't know specifically about dual flush, but I know low flow and that type of thing has been looked at. I know that when we're procuring our appliances, as public housing comes with fridges and stoves, we do make sure that they're energy efficient. We do put those types of specifications or parameters in there to try to make sure that we are taking those things into consideration and keeping ongoing

operating costs as low as we can. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Along the same lines, in a well-insulated house, you use less fuel to heat it. When you're doing modernization and improvements, are there standard insulation materials and that sort of thing that NHC uses or makes as requirements for contractors when they are building a house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I again thank you for that question. Whenever there is modernization happening or if a contractor is going to get materials for a modernization project and you are talking about insulation, it has to be an approved type of insulation. If it's an older building, then the insulation has to be, I think, an R-12 or an R-16 that would be approved or if it has to be foam, it has to follow the building code for the actual type of insulation.

As construction goes in different stages, they get inspected. For example, after the insulation has been installed, they get inspected and they make sure the vapour barrier has been put on properly. They are inspected to make sure the construction is being done according to code, especially ensuring that the house will be warm and some of your other concerns are also addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Along the same sort of lines, if there is an emergency situation for a private homeowner or if it is a housing corporation house and their unit has to be renovated with double-paned windows or triple-paned windows by a contractor, do you tell the contractors or do you have rules...? Because we live in the Arctic and because the house has to be able to be kept warm, have you told the contractors what the best types of windows are to be used for renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I stated earlier, the buildings that are under our department or under the housing associations have spec sheets as to how that building is to be constructed. We provide that to the contractors. They don't make their own specs. The housing corporation has specifications as to how new buildings are supposed to be built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To move on to something else, people have always known about the lack of housing in our community and people have talked about it. In one of the communities I represent, before I became an MLA, our present Premier was the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We were told then that because of the lack of

capacity at the Cape Dorset power plant, they couldn't build any more units there. After the school burned down, and everybody heard about that too, that school must have used a lot of power because it was quite a big school.

(interpretation ends) You talked about certain utility availability and land development in the communities, and power generation is one of the things that they look at. In Cape Dorset, we had a big building that is no longer there and it has probably freed up a lot of power consumption usage.

Can you look at meeting with the Qulliq Energy Corporation, now that there's no school, to see if there is any way that we can build some new houses or retrofit existing, abandoned houses and alleviate the housing stress in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me explain first of all. The community that he is talking about, Cape Dorset, for the communities that are supposed to be allocated housing, we haven't skipped Cape Dorset. The communities that have the most needs are what we're following as a priority list. It's not really because of the lack of power. We haven't used the lack of power in Cape Dorset as an excuse to skip that community. Cape Dorset is in the housing allocation plan. I hope you understand that.

Regarding your other question, we have always kept in communication with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. We have

worked together to try and find a way to look at the power generation system in Cape Dorset because it's not strong enough for the whole community. That was a reason. QEC has been looking for a solution and they have kept us involved in it. We have been trying to proceed together on this. Because of the lack of power, we couldn't build a number of units in Cape Dorset. It hasn't been skipped altogether. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. The people of Cape Dorset do not want to be skipped. If you can work with the Qulliq Energy Corporation when the housing corporation wants to build more housing in the future, always think about Cape Dorset. Don't skip Cape Dorset. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's just a comment. Following my list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister and your officials.

(interpretation ends) I can't seem to get my ducks in order, so I'm going to be all over the place.

(interpretation) My colleague, Mr. Rumbolt brought up the homeowner assistance programs earlier and the minister stated the programs could be reviewed in response to one of his questions.

Many of us have stated that the programs are mostly for those people who are coming here for a short time and leaving. They're not for the people of Nunavut that are going to stay here, especially for the younger people who are just starting out with their lives, with a young family. Both parents are working because it's very expensive to have kids or even live in Nunavut.

If you're not going to have any vehicles, snowmobiles, or anything like that, life is cheaper. If you're not going to live up here, then you don't need those things, but if you're going to be an actual person living in Nunavut, we need to have that equipment. Our precious young people who are just starting new families need both parents working if they're going to have a proper home. We just stop them when they're trying to get houses. The homeowner assistance programs are very good for transients, but no good for the people of Nunavut.

I am very glad that you said that you're going to be reviewing it. I encourage you to do that. I would really like you to say, "We are going to be reviewing it." Don't just say that we can review it. I would like to hear you say that "We are going to be reviewing it." I would like you to put some more thoughts into that matter.

My first question will be about houses being built. Last year, there were a bunch of communities that received houses. I am happy about that. Pond Inlet also got units. Can you let us know how it is going with the communities that received housing? Have they all proceeded well? Are they being completed with the budget that we approved last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's going well. I can say that. For instance, the tenders for the houses in Pond Inlet were opened last February. The completion dates are still set for August 2016. I'm just talking about Pond Inlet right now. There are also other communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I think I understand that other communities are going ahead on schedule. I can't remember how many communities there were. Are all the other communities on schedule besides Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can tell you that in Arviat, they have a completion date of this coming December 2015. Construction on those started in 2014. Some units are scheduled to be completed in July 2016. The tenders that were opened on February 23 are scheduled to be completed in July 2016. Looking at the Kitikmeot communities, their units are scheduled to be completed by August 2016 and there are older projects in Kugaaruk. Looking at our schedule for completion of construction, all the units are being constructed on schedule. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're talking about home construction, I know that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is always looking for the lowest cost, but I think too that perhaps you shouldn't put the cost so low that they're substandard.

Looking at the design of the buildings, the buildings that are being built today are always multiplex units. Can you use as an example which units are the most cost-effective to date? I hope you can understand me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, I totally don't understand your question. I'll ask Ms. Kimball if she was able to understand your question so that she can answer it because I don't understand. Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We put out very detailed specifications as part of the tendering process and in the tendering process, we outline a payment schedule. Before any contractor can receive payment for work performed, we do have one of our NHC staff fly in and make their observation and do an actual inspection. We do have that method to make sure that we're not paying for something that is substandard. Obviously, we have a vested interest and we care very much about making sure

that the units that are being built are going to last well into the future.

As I said before, we do find that the price can come down the more units we are building, so we have found multiplexes do give us a better price per unit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) I would like to thank Ms. Kimball for answering a question that I never asked, but it's nice to know. Obviously, I did not come across very well, but I appreciate the answer.

I guess what I'm alluding to is, (interpretation) I'm trying to say that I think the design of the buildings are always improving and I think we're always looking for designs that are better for the Arctic. Of the newer designs of the buildings being built today, can you give me an example where we're using these designs now because it's more cost-effective and better for the Arctic? I was trying to ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Now that I understand you, I thank you for your question. Mr. Chairman, for myself, I don't deal with this on a daily basis, but my officials are kept apprised on a daily basis as to which designs are more energy efficient, different things like weatherstripping. Ms. Kimball can respond to what improvements we have

seen, as you were requesting. Because of the specifications we have to use today, I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. (interpretation ends)
Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the more recent examples that I can quote is we removed the back porch, and I know that was a very controversial decision. What we did look at is what it is costing to build that back porch and we came up with a figure of around \$40,000 to add a back porch to a unit. For every 10 units, that's one less unit we're able to build for people.

At NHC, we actually hold regular annual meetings with our maintenance staff to get feedback from LHOs into our headquarters at our directorate office and we incorporate that feedback in the next year's work of design. We are setting up a more formalized feedback process to incorporate feedback we get.

Personally, I did a Baffin region tour this summer and have been having phone calls with individual LHOs to get feedback to find out what's working and what's not working in the communities to make sure that we're being as responsive as we can be. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. This is clearer now. I would also like to ask a question regarding staff housing. You have stated that in the past, there were different areas you had to

consider and you looked at the student-teacher ratio, the design, and force shared units. Those impact everything in the community.

Looking at staff housing units that have remained vacant for a very long time, such as the ones in Pond Inlet, I will continue to talk about them until something changes. You said that you can look into this. There are staff housing units that have never been lived in because of government positions that have never filled. Where are you today in your review on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the good question. I understand it. I will try and provide a short answer, but what he is talking about is a big issue. As he was saying, using staff housing as an example, the number one and number two priorities, whether it's a nurse or a doctor, those are one of the top priorities when we're considering staff housing.

For the second part of your question on what we have done with vacant staff units, apparently they are always vacant. Yes, there are vacant units in the communities. There are more in some communities and less in others, but there's nothing we can do about the units that are vacant. There are outside departments like CG&S or the municipal governments and they have their responsibilities too, so there's nothing we can really do about that. I hope I answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask this question. I know that this is not only the case in Pond Inlet. Pond Inlet is not the only community with this problem. I have heard that there are other communities with the same problem. I just want to ask that when there are cases like that, you will review them. With respect to the units that have never had tenants, are you looking into that now? I'll ask it that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We can say yes, we are doing something about that now. We are looking into it now since the question was asked last year and in the past months. There have been a lot of questions on that. We also wanted to look into what we have done to date in many of the communities. I know that it's not only in Pond Inlet. There are vacant units in the Baffin, Kivalliq, or Kitikmeot. I cannot answer that personally right now.

Where are we to date? I can respond that we can't go forward with some of them because we have to wait on other departments in some cases. Perhaps Ms. Kimball can respond as to exactly where we stand today, maybe for further clarification. I can't say that this is where we stand in this community or that community. I can't answer that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the minister. You don't necessarily have to say it in detail; I just wanted to ask if you're looking into it. Thank you for your response.

I will change my line of questioning and ask a completely different question. We all know that Nunavut has a serious housing shortage. If there were additional funds and if we could have additional cost savings, we could build more houses, especially public housing. We know that the operations and maintenance of each unit is at around \$26,000 annually for water, fuel, and keeping it running. We all know that for many of them, we don't pay anywhere near that amount.

How did you set that amount on how to educate tenants, how to better care for the units, how to save energy or other things? If we don't spend as much money on operations and maintenance, do you have set programs that we as tenants can actually see to know how much it costs to operate that unit? This is where we can realize savings. Perhaps if we work together, the tenants can realize how much money it costs to operate that unit. If I take care of this unit better, then there can be money for construction. If we work better together as Nunavummiut, there can be a little bit more money to build houses.

Do you do such things to keep the tenants informed or make the tenants aware of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his question. Yes, this is something that's of importance to us. We have to pay for the operations and maintenance of public housing. We use different programs. For example, this year, we put together a calendar outlining cost-saving measures that can be used by the homeowners. The tenants have to realize that there are costs involved every month to operate and maintain a house. It could either be a homeowner or a tenant.

Another example that we're currently working on is a how-to video. We have also created a website outlining how to be energy-efficient in operating a home. We are working with the local housing organizations about energy efficiency awareness programs, the costs of building a house, and we're using different options in the awareness campaign. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. L-3. Following the list of names, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I went to Clyde River last spring with officials from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We had meetings with the public and the local housing organization. My question is: what came out of the tour that the Nunavut Housing Corporation did last spring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for attending our community visit in Clyde River. They went to have meetings with the residents. Mr. Chairman, we are still working on some of the problems that were identified by the people we met with there. I think it was about three weeks where you and some of the people participated.

I am still waiting for the report of that tour we did. There were also some issues that had to be dealt with by external entities. I think it was two days ago that we had a conversation about our trip. I told my colleague that if it is required, I would go visit those two communities of his. Thank you.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people of Clyde River were very concerned, and I believe that it's important to deal with them and to rectify those problems. I don't think it's only in that community; we also have the same case in my community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

It was a problem when the manager cut some of his staff and brought in outsiders to replace them. Again, the people who came in from the south got into public housing right away even though there was a long list of people waiting to get public housing. That created a problem. What is happening with that? That is my question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to remind the

members that we are dealing with capital estimates. I'll leave it up to you to respond, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly where you are coming from, but as I indicated earlier, there was a meeting between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the member. We're taking action on issues that were identified during that tour. We will produce that report as soon as possible, including the action items that we're taking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question outside of the capital estimates. I would like to welcome you.

On October 29, 2014, the housing corporation produced the allocation of housing for 2015-16, and it also indicated that it was Kimmirut, Hall Beach, and Whale Cove that would be allocated staff housing. Is the construction of new staff houses up to date or are they on time? I hope that was understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That question was asked already, but if you would like to respond, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the staff housing and which community they will be allocated to... I lost my paper. I indicated earlier that for

2016-17, of the 83 units, 40 are allocated for public housing and 43 are allocated for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for that response. With public housing, we have a long list of people waiting for houses. Some people wait for years; five or six years before they can access a house. I like your plans, but I'm sure that we can't implement them tomorrow. I would like to urge the Nunavut Housing Corporation to identify who should be first and to make sure that it's implemented as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member. We work closely with local housing organizations. They have the staff and they know what the priorities are in their communities. We also have the regional offices and with the communities, the regional offices work closely together when it comes to prioritizing the needs of the communities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back to homeownership again. I'm a big believer in homeownership. I'll ask the minister to just clarify whether I'm right. The

only way for a person in Nunavut to get assistance to get their own house right now, other than the tenant-to-own, is the NDAP. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's not the only program. There is interim financing and NDAP that are being used currently. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll narrow down my question a bit more and clarify it some more.

Does the housing corporation have a program where a resident of Nunavut can get their own house like the access was, the HAP was and the MAP, or whatever it was called, or can they only get financial help? Do they have a program where someone can get an actual structure from the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. No, but (interpretation ends) as part of our Blueprint for Action on Housing, (interpretation) they will have other options and they will also be included in the review. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you

very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give us a date on when that program might be coming out? If he's looking at options, obviously they're working on it. Does he have a timeframe on it? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the blueprint for action will include different options, (interpretation ends) including Mr. Savikataaq's question. In the fall/winter 2016, we expect (interpretation ends) the report to be completed on the blueprint for action. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm going after this so much is I believe the bulk of homeownership assistance to acquire a house is through NDAP right now at the present time.

I'm looking at one of your documents, 2014-15 Homeownership Program Activity and in that, 65 percent of the NDAP money goes to Iqaluit and I believe it should be a Nunavut-wide program. I mean it is a Nunavut-wide program, but obviously this program is targeting Iqaluit because that's where the bulk of the funding is going.

I think that you have to give people in smaller communities a chance on ways to acquire their own houses too because

as I stated many times, public housing is just not sustainable. We've got to get people into their own houses and take ownership. We've got to come up with something better than 65 percent of the funding going to Iqaluit. That was just comment, but if the minister would like to comment on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I take that as a comment, but if the minister wants to respond to the comment, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the comment, but I would also like to comment on that so that the members know that we look at every application, whether it's from Iqaluit, Arviat, Whale Cove, or Chesterfield Inlet, from every Nunavut community. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Mr. Savikataaq, questions, please. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go on to the next question. On the budgets you get for staff housing, do you normally spend the whole budget? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you spend the whole budget on your staff housing normally, in your document here, you have a buyback program and it states that you

can buyback program from the GN employees and you can buy a house if there's not sufficient private sector housing for leasing a staff unit in that community. You have also had buyback and purchase programs for the last three years consistently.

Where is that money coming from if the staff housing budget is completely used up every year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that much detailed information that I can respond to his question. If you don't mind, I will get Ms. Kimball to answer that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NHC is able to carryover its budgets, so we do put contingency factors into all of our construction budgets. The GN does offer the GN's buyback program as part of the staff housing program for the GN. The amounts that we are talking about are generally very small. Looking back in 2012-13, we had one purchase for \$125,000 and another purchase for \$188,000. We're able to get good value for the money with these units compared to the cost of construction.

We have managed to do this within our budget based on savings that we have generated through doing larger multiplexes and through savings by being able to reduce the contingency that we have been experiencing with our contractors.

When we were doing Nunavut Housing Trust, we were up to a 12 percent contingency factor. We're down operating well below a 3 percent contingency factor. By having generated those savings in our construction program, we were able to acquire these units. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question because it's getting late, if the money is not used for buying staff housing, is this money lapsed? I'm not familiar with the accounting practices of the housing corporation. Obviously, you have money left over every year, it sounds like. Does this contingency plan just keep piling up? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In response, if I understood the question correctly, if we had to carry our funding to the new fiscal year, it just rolls over to the next year. I hope that's clear. (interpretation ends) It rolls over to the following year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably have just one question. I am very pleased about the proposed warehousing you will be working on in all communities, starting with Baker Lake. I had hoped that it would be faster, but due to lack of funding, it takes longer.

I just have this one question. The Department of Community and Government Services usually says that they collect the priorities of the communities and there is a committee made up of the hamlet council, CGS, and other representatives. I am not sure where they're from, but there are also representatives from NAM. I believe those are the committee members that provide recommendations to the minister on the priorities.

How did the Nunavut Housing Corporation determine that the first new warehouse should be built in Baker Lake? Who makes the decision as to where to build the warehouses? Who decides which community gets a warehouse after Baker Lake, such as Pond Inlet or other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As I stated before, last fall when we appeared before the standing committee meeting, after looking at all the communities and after doing a comprehensive review of the housing inventory, some of the housing stock is getting really old and a majority of the units are aging. We wanted to start planning on warehousing. The funding for the first new warehouse would be in Baker Lake. The size of the warehouse in Baker Lake and the figure is just an estimate. In the smaller communities, the budget would be smaller. I hope I'm understandable. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I said I was going to ask one question, I'm still trying to ask one question. You didn't respond to my question. How did you determine the first new warehouse should be built in Baker Lake? Who decides which community will be allocated a new warehouse after Baker Lake, such as Pond Inlet or other communities? Who makes that decision and how is that set up as to where the warehouses will be built? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Briefly, as I had stated before, we're looking at the age of the warehouse and looking at the inventory or the aging facilities of LHOs. I can say as to who makes that decision, do we have a committee within the Nunavut Housing Corporation? I'm sure there's somebody responsible for that, but I'm sure Ms. Kimball knows. I'll ask her to respond as to who determines that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the first warehouse facility, this is the first time we're doing this in quite a long time. We had each of the districts work with each of the LHOs and rank the LHOs within their community. That was provided with some supporting documents in terms of

the age of the warehouse, how many units have we added since the units were originally created, so how much was the growth of what they're supporting.

We had all three districts submit that and then what we did is we worked at the executive level of NHC reviewed all of that and determined that Baker Lake was in the worst condition. We presented to our board of directors and our board of directors approved moving forward as the first step with Baker Lake. We're developing a more comprehensive way of analyzing the remaining 24 communities to prioritize going forward. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$38,060,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Move on to page L-2. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mission. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$38,060,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Are we agreed that NHC is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have a brief closing comment? Mr. Kuksuk.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. George Kuksuk: No, (interpretation) I'm fine. Thank you. I just want to say "thank you" for your good questions and I expect to work closely with you. I would also like to thank my officials that waited here. Although there are some issues that we can't respond to at this time, I'm sure we will be able to respond to them at a later date. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, for your closing comments. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation ends) As per Rule 6(1), I will now recognize the clock and report to the Speaker.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 3 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Alex Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Tupik): Meeting announcement for tomorrow at ten o'clock, the Standing Committee on Rules in the Tuktu Committee Room.

Orders of the Day for October 27:

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 1

- Bill 2
- Bill 3
- Bill 6
- Tabled Document 107 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Deputy Clerk.
This House stands adjourned until
Tuesday, October 27, at 1:30.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:09*

