



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 24

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Pages 1497 – 1538

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Immigration; Minister responsible for the
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responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 31, 2018****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak,
 Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie
 Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George
 Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline
 Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr.
 Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne
 Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr.
 John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr.
 Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq,
 Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt,
 Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee
 Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:29***Item 1: Opening Prayer****Speaker** (Hon. Joe Enook)

(interpretation): Mr. Netser, can you say
 the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you,
 Mr. Netser. Good afternoon,
 (interpretation ends) Premier
 (interpretation) and my colleagues. We
 say “good afternoon” to all
 Nunavummiut who are watching the
 televised proceedings and listening to
 the radio broadcast. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Today is October
 31, and I am sure we will experience
 both tricks and treats during today’s
 sitting.

For me, the greatest treat is the
 opportunity to publicly wish my dear
 wife, Mary, a very happy birthday.

>>*Applause*

I would have to rule myself out of order
 if I informed the House how many
 candles will be on her birthday cake
 today.

>>*Laughter*

But I can say with absolute certainty that
 I cherish every precious year that we
 have been together.

(interpretation) Mary, I know that you
 are watching, so please know that you
 are always in my thoughts and in my
 heart. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Member for Hudson
 Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
 Happy Halloween and a safe Halloween
 to all of our constituents out there.

Mr. Speaker, the first trick I would like
 to try to pull today...

>>*Laughter*

...is I would like to seek unanimous
 consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on
 the order paper. Thank you, Mr.
 Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Nice try.>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
 The member is seeking unanimous
 consent to go directly to Item 19 in the
Orders of the Day. Are there any nays?
 There are no nays. Let’s now go directly
 to Item 19.

Please mute your cellphones.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 9, 10, and 11 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 14 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Now I ask you all to remain seated as we shall proceed directly to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. Before I start, just looking around the room, I see lots of colourful masks on today.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2, 9, 10, and 11. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 9 and the capital main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education, then the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, if time permits and I highly doubt it will, Nunavut

Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2019-2020 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Eiryn Devereaux, ADM of Infrastructure, and to my left is Mr. Kyle Seeley, ADM of Municipal Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday we were on page J-3. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. The next name on

the list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize that we were on J-3. I was going to ask a question on page J-4. Is that okay?

Thank you. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, minister. (interpretation) I am happy that we're back today.

The question I would like to pose is about the increasing number of municipal vehicles, such as water and sewage trucks. They lack garage space and they are buying more vehicles. The hamlet councils that I represent have been requesting garages for their vehicles. I would like to ask the minister for an update and if any planning has been done on that.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for his question. There is a shortage of heated garages in Nunavut as a whole. It's obvious that is also the case in your communities. With the increasing number of vehicles or heavy equipment, it's true they are lacking space. We toured the communities in Nunavut to find out what is urgently needed and the lack of heated garages was a main topic of discussion. The list of priorities is reviewed as to what should and should not be included. They're all being worked on at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will the communities be informed as to when

they will be getting their garages? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. We're aware of the importance of parking garages. We're currently looking at how we could provide new funding to this program. Once that is done, we will identify which communities will receive parking garages and when. I will keep my colleagues updated on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you, minister. Our Member for Aggu had made statements in the House in regard to dusty roads. We realize that the CGS department provides dust suppressants to the hamlets. They ship it up on sealift. Some communities are not sufficiently trained on the application of the dust suppressants, so their supply doesn't last the entire summer. They probably deplete the dust suppressant because they don't know how to use it.

Can the government train workers on how to use dust suppressants properly? Some people have trouble breathing or have weak lungs. If there is proper training on how to use these chemicals, it could last all summer rather than being depleted right away. Does your department have any plans to train its workers at the local level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I'm very pleased that you're asking this question, Mr. Netser. Yes, I have seen different suppressants being put down on the road. They put the dust suppressant on the road and the water truck will follow behind. We have seen different methods of suppressing dust on the road. I know that at the beginning there was a training program for the municipalities on how to apply the dust suppressant. If you don't apply it properly, as you stated, it gets depleted right away.

We can provide training. The Municipal Training Organization provides training to municipal staff for such things as driving and financial management. We will discuss this matter with the MTO to see if they can provide training in the summer on how to apply the dust suppressant properly. We will deal with it this coming summer to ensure they know how to apply the dust suppressant properly. I will follow up with your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. When we're talking about the fire truck identified here, which community is it going to and how many communities will be receiving fire trucks next year? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities will be getting fire trucks have been identified. We now order two fire trucks every summer. In 2018 Arviat and Pangnirtung will be getting fire trucks; in 2019 they will go to Baker

Lake and Kugluktuk; in 2020 they will be going to Cambridge Bay and Nauyasat; and going down the list, Coral Harbour will get a new fire truck in 2022. There will be two communities receiving fire trucks each year all the way down the list. I can go through the entire list if you want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you done? (interpretation ends) Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. My first question is going to be regarding the letter that was provided to us yesterday by the minister's staff. Over the past several months there have been a number of RFPs in the paper for solid waste management in our communities.

In this letter you talk about three types of priorities for solid waste management. You talk about short-term priorities: Arviat, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay; medium-term priorities: Rankin Inlet, Kimmirut, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Pangnirtung; and long-term priorities: Igloolik, Hall Beach, Whale Cove, Sanikiluaq, and Cape Dorset.

For starters, I wonder if they can give me a definition of what a short-term or medium- or long-term priority means in number of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to elaborate. Thank you for the question, sir.

In terms of short term, it deals with the start of the feasibility study on through

to the end of the feasibility study and also the anticipated tabling of the feasibility studies on those projects. It is more driven by the start and stop dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no specific date or time limit for each particular priority, the way I'm seeing it, between start and completion.

When you decided which communities were going to be the short term, medium or long term, how did you come up with your reasoning for placing each community where they are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. There are different things we take into consideration, some of which are the existing lifespan of the current facility; how long it can be maintained before we need to replace it is one of the key priorities.

Mr. Chairman, if I could have Mr. Seeley give more detail on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I thank the member for the question. The solid waste facilities are managed by the municipalities. The actual evaluation of where they sit and fit within the development of the new waste bundles was established in consultation with the

communities through the ICSP process, in addition to the review of the existing facilities and their potential lifespan as well as the current management practices within the communities. Of course the prioritization is within the municipalities responsible for managing those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that municipalities are responsible for their waste facilities. One final question in this particular area is, your short-term priorities are Arviat, Clyde River... I named them all and I won't name them again. Does it mean that you will finish these communities in short-term priorities before you move on to mid-term priorities and the long-term priorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not necessarily. I think there are some projects that will be overlapped. We will be finishing up on one project and doing planning and design on one or two or three more. It will be a continuing, revolving issue, Mr. Chairman. There will not be a "We have to finish Arviat before we start Sanikiluaq." There will be none of that. We will do what we can and keep it rolling so there is no stalling and hiccups waiting for project A before project B goes forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that

clarification. On to a different subject, on page 8 of my opening comments I talked about funds being in your proposed budget for the South Baffin Energy Management Project, which is also a component of the Nunavut Energy Management Program. I do believe there are six communities involved in that program. Can the minister confirm which six communities are part of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have 30 seconds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I have to get back to my colleague on that on which communities they are. It's here somewhere, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I'll get back to him as soon as we find it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question I had along those lines is there are six communities that I know of that are in this project and it would be interesting to know: what is your department's timetable for expanding this energy management project to the remaining communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question and thanks for your patience. If I could, through you, Mr. Chairman, maybe have Mr. Devereaux respond to the details particular to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Our Energy Strategy first focused on the city of Iqaluit in which we undertook a pilot and have seen great success for return on investment relative to energy upgrades.

As the committee is likely aware, we then moved on to the Kivalliq and we're currently in the implementation phase, so construction is ongoing as we speak. While we were in the implementation phase for the Kivalliq, we had undertaken the feasibility study for South Baffin for the six communities, which I believe are Sanikiluaq, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, and one more which we will verify once we find the documents.

We're hoping to move forward if we get approval into the implementation phase for the South Baffin in six communities in terms of that strategy. We're about to embark on the feasibility study for the North Baffin communities and, if successful, we would see that feasibility study completed about this time next year, with anticipation that we would be coming back in front of the Assembly looking for potential funding for North Baffin's energy management program.

Then it would be our intent to move to the final region, the Kitikmeot region, to undertake a feasibility study the year after and again seek some form of an appropriation to implement the Kitikmeot strategy if approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Devereaux just mentioned the Kivalliq energy management program and I believe in June we carried over, over \$24 million for that particular project. I'm just wondering: why did your department need to carry over so much funding and what is the current status of the Kivalliq energy management program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask you to allow Mr. Devereaux to respond to that line of questioning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. As indicated, the current status on the Kivalliq energy management project is we are currently in the implementation and construction phase. We assume that for the remainder of 2018 and all of 2019 we will undergo all of those implementation measures across the various facilities. Once completed, we will move into the first year or two of monitoring in terms of the anticipated energy savings on that.

The described carryover that we brought forward earlier in the year was a non-cash appropriation. This particular project is a third party funded project where the energy management firm that we went through an open procurement process to engage put up the capital investment and then through the guaranteed savings over a 10-year period, they recoup that capital investment.

In terms of accounting, there was a requirement to bring forward a non-cash appropriation to recognize that capital investment made by the third-party. The reasoning we had to undertake it in a prior year and then have the carryover was probably just around the timing of the signing of the contract with this particular energy management firm because we needed the appropriation in order to sign the contract, although we knew that the implementation and the recognition of that capital expense wouldn't be until the subsequent fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll change the subject again. On page 11 of my opening comments I talked about section 8 of the integrated bilateral agreement between the federal and territorial governments respecting the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. I also stated that it requires the Government of Nunavut to provide information by November 30 of 2018, which is not far away.

I am aware that the City of Iqaluit did access federal funding from this program. I wonder what other specific projects have been approved for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my understanding, none at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is none, then are you able to inform us what proposals have been submitted by the Government of Nunavut in order to access this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're currently working on that list and that list should be complete before November 30. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question, when this list is complete, will it be made available to us regular MLAs for review and so that we can have an idea of what projects you're trying to move forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As soon as that list is ready, I will be more than happy to share it with all my colleagues. Mr. Chairman, we will ensure that it is in time for the federal government. That November 30 may fluctuate, but as soon as we have that available, I would be more than happy to share it with the Members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding the hamlet's integrated community sustainability plan, or (interpretation ends) ICSP.

(interpretation) When the Department of Community and Government Services does their planning, to what extent do they review the ICSPs for the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This summer, for example, we went to every hamlet to hear what they foresee and need in terms of infrastructure and community requirements. All the hamlets were visited to have their priorities reviewed. The plans are moved forward by a committee which has membership from hamlets, our department staff, and the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Association of Municipalities (interpretation) and mayors are included. This committee then reviews the entire requests to see which community projects will be prioritized. They prioritize the projects based on health and safety, emergency preparedness, and so on and they do that following the procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for a proper response. Looking at the document, I do not see where Chesterfield Inlet is mentioned here. The document indicates which communities are getting the gas tax revenue. Looking at the other document, Chesterfield Inlet is mentioned under total block funding. However, in other documents it is rare to see the community of Chesterfield Inlet mentioned or listed, and then I see that in 2016 Rankin Inlet will be getting a fire truck, but 10 years later in 2026, Chesterfield Inlet will be getting one.

I know you have to treat all the hamlets equally, but does Chesterfield Inlet have the newest equipment? We rarely see anything new going into Chesterfield Inlet in this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know some communities feel left behind and it's impossible to provide for all the communities at the same time. We haven't forgotten about Chesterfield Inlet. We are even planning now about the water supply for the community of Chesterfield Inlet and there will be an announcement soon on a timeline. However, we work together with all the hamlets to prioritize their needs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister. I really want to ask some good questions, but I probably won't. Let me start with your capital requests and small capital.

I would like you to look at our hamlet. The hamlet can never catch up to the capital requirements. I said briefly that the hamlet's finance officer is living in the hamlet office. A problem occurred in the spring due to mould. As usual they tried to ask for money to upgrade their buildings because they are quite old. The hamlet doesn't have enough money to keep up with the demand.

With respect to your capital estimates, can't the municipal buildings for staff be

placed in the capital plan? I'll ask that first, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the hamlets get operating funds. They get that funding and there was a raise in the money they received this summer. All the hamlets get different amounts and they got different raises. NAM is completing its review of the hamlet funding requests. Once that is completed, we will get a better idea as to how much more money will be available to the hamlets.

When the hamlets request extra money for infrastructure and vehicles, it's usually done through the (interpretation ends) ICSP (interpretation) and we look for extra money for them through that. With regard to what Ms. Towton was asking about, we deal with it through the (interpretation ends) ICSP. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for explaining that. The Hamlet of Hall Beach has financial difficulties and they have debts. Even though that is the situation, they serve the community well and I see that with the work they're trying to do.

When hamlets have requests like that and they have received money from the government, can you give the hamlets more authority? If their building cannot be upgraded and they want to purchase another building, I believe some of the

rules prohibit the hamlets from doing that. Whenever they want to purchase capital items, not just in Hall Beach but all the hamlets in Nunavut, can they be given more authority along those lines? Let me ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets own their buildings like their offices and parking garages. We have seen some hamlets buying buildings according to the authority they have. If they feel they can afford to buy a new building based on their finances, they can do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman. Let me move on to something else. Thank you for explaining that. Under the Canada-Nunavut agreement for infrastructure, such as buildings and major projects, it includes upgrading of roads and marine infrastructure. Can the hamlets get funding for docking facilities under this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets can't do that under this agreement, but we can look further into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's unfortunate.

Let me go back to the document. The capital estimates that were provided to the standing committee... Let me use this as an example. The city got approval for funds under an agreement. I believe we can do the same thing for the hamlets under the ICIP funding. Why did the city get approval for their dump proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood your question, you were asking if the hamlet can request money from the government for that purpose and that's how I responded to your question. However, if they work through government, they can apply for assistance. I don't want you to misunderstand that. If I misunderstood your question, I regret that.

Perhaps Mr. Devereaux can respond to the question more clearly, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Hamlets are able to pursue federal infrastructure capital funding through the various programs, whether it's the New Building Canada Fund or the recent ICIP program.

The federal government, in that bilateral agreement, wanted to have one single source client to deal with and that is the Government of Nunavut, but it certainly doesn't prohibit hamlets from pursuing capital project funding through those programs. The example with the City of Iqaluit, they would have had to present

that capital request via that bilateral agreement that the Government of Nunavut has with the federal government.

As the minister had mentioned, we're currently looking at the infrastructure plan over the course of the next few months which will outline potential future projects under ICIP. Through that examination, I don't doubt that there will be a number of municipal infrastructure projects being considered. Hamlets would bring those municipal capital requests forward the same way they do for projects that would be funded 100 percent through the GN. That mechanism is still there for hamlets.

Some of the federal funding programs that were mentioned, whether it's the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund or the New Building Canada Fund or the recent Investing in Canada program, the federal government does have certain program eligibility categories. We have seen that marine infrastructure, as you had mentioned, was recently approved for Pond Inlet and Iqaluit, so it is an eligible category.

Each department brings forward their capital requests that may be eligible for federal funding and they get prioritized. That's really what would be reflective in the plan that we have to deliver to the federal government in the next few months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for explaining that further. If the hamlets wanted to make a request, do you have timelines set? Is there a deadline should

they want to make a request for infrastructure? I'll just use November as an example. If they made a submission in November and they're requesting to have a particular project funded 100 percent, when would be the deadline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those requests have to be properly planned. If the Government of Nunavut has to provide some money as part of the requests, we want to receive the applications before Christmas so that we can start planning in April. The sooner we see those requests the sooner we can make the plan for the upcoming fiscal year. That's the deadline that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman. That's useful information for all the hamlets in Nunavut.

I'll move on to a totally different subject. You indicated that the fibre infrastructure project would be a multi-year program. You said that you will spend \$5 million over several years. You seemed to indicate that only two communities will get fibre infrastructure, and then we found out it will now be four communities. Maybe the scope of work changed that it went from two communities to four. Can you explain that? This will be my last question for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to speak. At the beginning of the fibre infrastructure project or at the beginning of any project, we begin the planning. At that time we wanted to start with Iqaluit and Kimmirut or Cape Dorset. From the information that we gathered, we know that Quebec are also working on that.

If you can imagine Hudson Bay, we would install the fibre optic cable going to the west, then go to Nunavik and then to the Atlantic Ocean. If you could visualize the map, since we saw the routes of the planned implementation, we were looking at including Sanikiluaq because it would connect us from Greenland and southern Canada. If something happened to the connection, then there would be another area where we could reconnect to, which is called a redundancy. We're now looking at four communities following developments in this area. That's what we envision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

You said that you will be purchasing a fire truck for Kugluktuk in 2019. Will that also be coming off the sealift of 2019? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the plan, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Moving on, on page 3 of your opening remarks you say that there are going to be arena upgrades across Nunavut. Can you elaborate on that one a little more? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just let me get to that tab.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your patience. Mr. Chairman, there are 11 communities eligible for upgrades, including Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials.

In response to the member from Sanikiluaq, under repairs, the old hamlet office in Kugaaruk was purchased for \$120,000. I'm sure it is being used by the school and the minister is aware of that. Once the school is done with the building, are there any plans to use it for something else? Mr. Chairman, I'm asking that for clarification. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite get his question. What was he asking for

clarification on? Perhaps he can tell me which building he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Under CGS Municipal Buildings, Repairs and Equipment, Kugaaruk purchase of old hamlet office of \$120,000, (interpretation) I was asking for clarification. It is the hamlet's old office that has been turned into a school. In 2019-2020, what is going to happen to that building once the new school is completed? Are you looking at turning that old office into something else? I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, my colleague, for clarifying your question. It wasn't on purpose, but sometimes I don't understand.

The old office building that you're referring to will be used by the government. It will remain a GN asset. We will consult with the various organizations and decide what it is going to be used for. It may possibly be a community learning centre or an office. We haven't made a decision yet at this time on what it will be used for, but we won't be surplus-ing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that proper response. I'm

sure that we will get that information.

Moving on to another subject, on page 5 it states that they have identified the communities that will be receiving fire trucks and in what year. Are you going to be upgrading all of the fire trucks in Nunavut so that they're in good working order?

For example, when our school burnt down in 2017 in extremely cold weather, it was minus 65 degrees Celsius at that time and the fire truck couldn't be used because the water was frozen. Are you going to be upgrading the fire truck so that they can be used in cold climates? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fire trucks will be modified to perform in cold climates. I don't know if they will still function at minus 65 degrees Celsius, but they would have to be modified so that they can operate in the cold climate. That's our goal. When there is a fire in the north, you would want your fire truck to be operable in cold or warm temperatures. They will be modifying the fire trucks and we do work closely with them. We want to make sure that they are modified to function in our northern climate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. I'm not sure whether this vehicle will be able to be modified to work in the cold climate. I know that all

kinds of vehicles are shipped up from southern parts of Canada, but we would like to be sure that these vehicles are adapted to the cold climate, so we need to be well prepared. That is just a comment, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Though it was just a comment, I would like to provide a reply. In Kugaaruk they will be getting a new fire hall in 2020 that is large enough to house the fire truck, which is good timing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to comment further.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. Good afternoon.

On July 10, 2018 the federal government announced the federal contribution of \$26.2 million under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan for solid waste management improvements. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us how much funding the GN put towards this initiative in support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Devereaux respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. If I understood the question correctly, it was in relation to the City of Iqaluit's approval for a solid waste facility. In that particular funding application, the federal government committed to 75 percent of the capital funding and the City of Iqaluit brought forward the remaining 25 percent. The GN had no direct investment that would have been in an appropriation through the House.

The City of Iqaluit's 25 percent portion, I can't speak to where within their city finances that they targeted that 25 percent. Certainly, as the committee is aware, CGS does provide capital contribution funding every year to the city and they build up that reserve and then they decide what their priorities are to how to allocate that. We didn't provide a direct contribution to that specific project that the 25 percent portion would have come from the City of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: did the city come to you at any time and ask for help for that 25 percent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Devereaux alluded to,

the GN provides block funding for the City of Iqaluit. Is Iqaluit the only community in Nunavut that receives block funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Ms. Angnakak. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have these block funding amounts ever gone up or down over the years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they went up last year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: From what I understand, I think it's at \$4 million. What kind of an increase did they receive from the last time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: \$600,000, Mr. Chairman, as I understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the city ever come forward to say that this is not enough?

The city is really growing and looking at the cost of running our city, there's nothing that is getting cheaper. I think the current agreement is going to expire in March of 2019. I wonder: has the department gone to the city now to talk to them about new amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The City of Iqaluit, like every other municipality in Nunavut, is constantly asking for more funds, but every year the city's increase was \$600,000. They just signed a new five-year deal in mid-August of this year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. What kinds of conditions are placed on the city in order to receive this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The infrastructure dollars have to be used for infrastructure and follow the guidelines, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not all familiar with what constitutes a community to be on a tax-based system. Perhaps you can enlighten me, but I do wonder if the minister can tell me if there are any other communities that might be close to becoming on a tax-based system or are

we the only one for the next foreseeable future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the communities that want to become a tax-based community, there is none at this time or none that I see in the foreseeable future, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask is it is to do with block funding. What do you think are the advantages when it comes to receiving funding to be on a tax-based system versus a different kind of system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, having been a mayor in the fine community of Rankin Inlet, there is no benefit for the smaller municipalities with the population sizes that we have to become a tax-based community. Mr. Chairman, I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps there are not enough good reasons to say because sometimes I think that the City of Iqaluit is not included because they are tax-based, and sometimes I feel that it's an excuse that is used by government.

For example, if you're going to do a solid waste management system analysis and you do an RFP, a lot of times the

City of Iqaluit is not included. I'm wondering if you have any comments on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I think the City of Iqaluit has done very well compared to the other municipalities around Nunavut. They have received \$4 million every year in infrastructure dollars. The rest of the Nunavut communities have to go through this budgeting system to try to fight for their infrastructure. The City of Iqaluit has received, I believe, around \$700 million over the last five to eight years on infrastructure. I think the city has done very well, Mr. Chairman. They should and they continue to fight for more, so does the rest of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think we have the biggest population, so we should be, in my own opinion. The \$4 million still has to go through the House regardless, so it's not like we're doing it on the outside or that there are any real special favours. I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

Like you said, everybody could use more money, but as a department, do you ever look at how big each community is growing and at what rate to keep up with the amounts that the community accesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We go through a review in terms of what kind of funding we can provide with the funds that we have based on community sizes.

When you talk about Iqaluit being the largest community and therefore should get the largest share, that stands to be debated amongst our colleagues in this room. Through the municipal association and other people out there, I have heard arguments when you say, “Well, they still have to account for the \$4 million through this legislature.” Well, other municipalities would love to have that problem, Ms. Angnakak.

It depends on what side of the fence you’re sitting on. It’s very hard sometimes to sit where I’m sitting to try to figure out how best to lay it so that it supports as many people as it can. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Maybe you can enlighten my last question. Why don’t we do block funding to each municipality? If you could just enlighten me with that. That is my last question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m assuming you’re talking about capital. It’s just the capacity to plan and design projects in each municipality. The municipalities don’t have the staff to do planning and design of capital. Our department does that. That’s one of the few other reasons why it’s done the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, your second line of questioning, Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot we started yesterday and I thought this was my first line of questioning, but it’s a (interpretation ends) new day.

(interpretation) Earlier my colleague mentioned the issue of dust. Can you explain what this dust suppressant is and what it’s made of? I would first like to find out exactly what it is. It has been tried in a number of communities, as you have noted. (interpretation ends) What exactly is it? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is called Dustop. It is a dust suppressant. It is made of calcium chloride, which is a salt-based product, to say it shortly, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, when we are surrounded by salt, we have to buy salt in the form of calcium. Almost all communities are surrounded by salt. I have a better understanding of what it is now. How much money has the Department of Community and Government Services spent in testing this as a pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department provides operational funds to

run the hamlets and they in turn buy the dust suppressant. It comes from the hamlets' funding, not ours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand that it comes out of the hamlets' funding. Is it up to the municipalities to decide how much money to spend on dust control? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the municipalities decide how much Dustop they would like to buy, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that response. Even when Dustop is used, it still gets very dusty. That's obvious. Has CGS ever considered looking at any other new products?

(interpretation ends) Ultimately (interpretation) we all are heading in the right direction when we pave roads. We always hear the desire for this and not being able to deliver on it. I wonder if new products are out there that are better suited as it will be a while before we get paved roads. We know that even if we wanted to pave the roads in our communities, Community and Government Services says it's impossible because it costs too much. That is what I expect them to say all the time.

For that reason, do they look at alternatives outside of Nunavut? Have they looked at other options that are used outside of Nunavut? The reason I'm asking that question is because I have heard that Yukon College was able to pave a road at a much lower cost than (interpretation ends) the normal process. (interpretation) They found a method at a much lower cost. There are such things as that and that's why I'm asking that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Community and Government Services is always looking for better dust suppressants.

Dust is a real problem in all the communities. I have a breathing problem sometimes and I have descendants who have breathing problems. When there is too much dust outside, you cannot go outdoors even if you want to, especially for the older people. They are always walking outside if they are capable, but the dust keeps them from going outdoors.

I think all of us live in communities where there is a dust problem. We're always looking at ways to reduce the amount of dust. There is training available on how to apply the dust suppressants. When it is applied properly, it is very effective in suppressing dust for a period of time. When we have to go places, we should not drive too fast because we have a role to play in it as well. The communities are getting more and more vehicles and four-wheelers, which is why we cannot keep up.

Mr. Chairman, we are looking at more effective dust suppressants that are also more affordable for the communities. We are continually working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those of us living in the communities are aware that roads are not the only problem. Where they have runways near the community, they also produce a lot of dust. As we know, it's not just roads; it's also airports. I'm just pointing that out.

I'll move on to another subject, (interpretation ends) solid waste management, (interpretation) as it's called in English. When we're talking about that issue, it's explained here in your letter of response on (interpretation ends) solid waste management (interpretation) that they have reached their maximum capacity and they are aging.

The Department of Community and Government Services is doing upgrades on 13 solid waste facilities and they're now working on 12 of them. Three communities are able to get funding now from the federal government and the Government of Nunavut. The split is 75 percent by the federal government and 25 percent by the Government of Nunavut, and that is how it set. There has been \$136 million identified under the (interpretation ends) Small Communities Fund.

(interpretation) The reason for stated that is because there are communities with solid waste sites that are completely open and debris blow around in the wind

every year. Some communities get littered with blown debris from landfills, not just to the community but also into the ocean, such as (interpretation ends) plastic bags, (interpretation) shopping bags, and so on.

The communities ask, especially Igloolik, for fencing for solid waste sites. Can they get funding to start installing fencing? I want that clarified. There are many communities along with Igloolik that talk about getting fencing. I just want that clarified first, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, we do see a lot of garbage even out on the mainland nowadays. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question, Mr. Quassa. Solid waste management is extremely important and it's becoming more and more important.

Solid waste sites are running out of room and one of our main priorities is to have solid waste sites managed properly. I spoke about the plans. Everyone is looking at how solid waste sites will be designed. They need liners so that contaminants cannot go into the ground. They also need fencing so that the garbage won't blow in the wind and animals won't be getting into the dump sites. All these things are being looked at.

The planning will be done for Igloolik in 2020-21. I am aware that it needs fencing and that will be included. All of the solid waste sites that are being planned now will all need fencing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I clearly understand that now and the communities will look forward to that because it will be a huge benefit to us.

Also on the issue of solid waste sites, to say incinerators in real Inuktitut, *ittitaliurutiit*, that's not the exact term, but I'm comparing them to fireplaces. Communities also talk about incinerators. When will we be able to look at them? It doesn't necessarily have to be a huge incinerator, as incinerators are smaller sizes now. I don't know the exact term in Inuktitut, but I know the interpreters already know the term.

I don't know exactly how much incinerators cost, but they don't necessarily have to be huge. They can be small and still be adequate. Has the Department of Community and Government Services considered using incinerators? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleague, for asking those questions because they are good to hear. Yes, we're also considering them. When we're talking about solid waste sites and possible landfill sites, we are also considering incinerators for each community to burn garbage. They wouldn't be big, but they would try to accommodate the size for each community's needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear. I will be asking for more information on which communities will be able to get that type of infrastructure. It will be interesting to hear because we expect such things. We know today that when our solid wastes are burnt in our communities, they produce a lot of smoke. The smoke reaches vast distances and it smells bad. I think incinerators produce less smoke and they should be emitting smaller amounts of smoke. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman.

Moving on, I don't know if this has anything to do with your department, but in our community of Igloolik near the airport, there are many containers of contaminated soil. If you ever go to the airport and on your way to the community, there are bales and bales of contaminated soil that have been sitting there for many years now. My first question on that is if you are aware of it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. The bales are not owned by CGS, so I can't comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was your last question, Mr. Quassa. We will take a ten-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:01 and resumed at 15:18

Chairman: Welcome back, committee. The minister is waving his hand, so he's got something to say. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to say “hi.” I’m kidding.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I had told our colleague from Sanikiluaq I would give him an update as to which six communities are considered South Baffin. If I may provide that to you now, Mr. Chairman, they are, in no particular order: Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. The next name on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. Thank you. I don’t have many more questions to ask. Let me ask the minister first of all about old buildings that are owned by the government, which are managed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Are buildings that are no longer being used still managed by the Department of Community and Government Services? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that would be the case, but what the buildings were used for would be identified. If they have not been released by the departments that were using them, they remain under their departments. If they release them to us, then we start to deal with what is going to be done with a particular building in accordance with the rules. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that was clear.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. Has the old nursing station in Naujaat been released to your department? It seems that it would be demolished. If your department is holding it now, my first question on that is when it is set for demolition. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can’t say right now if we have taken over the old nursing station in Naujaat or if it is still under the Department of Health. However, we haven’t made any plans to demolish it yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question I have to the minister is there are two portable schools in Naujaat. I believe they were held by Arctic College. These buildings are in excellent condition and with the chronic housing shortages and staff housing shortages that the hamlets have... I understand that the hamlet in Naujaat is requesting to get those buildings. (interpretation) I would like to ask the minister if he has heard anything about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that those buildings are still under Arctic College. That’s where they are at right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My last question is regarding the sewage lagoon in Naujaat. (interpretation) There was a plan to do some work on it last year or the year before. I would like to ask for an update on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Seeley to provide an update on this matter if it's okay with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I thank the member for the question. The projects in Naujaat did proceed over the summer. We can certainly provide the member with a more detailed summary of exactly what was completed over the summer and the full term of that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. You can send me a letter or something pertaining to that file. Thank you.

I thought that was my last question, but I've just got one more final one, Mr. Chairman, regarding the fire trucks that will be delivered to these communities. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the old fire trucks are being replaced with new ones. Will the old fire halls be adequate to house the new fire trucks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we want the new replacement vehicles to have adequate space. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister. (interpretation ends) Happy Halloween.

(interpretation) My first question will be about fire halls. Both of my communities of Whale Cove and Arviat expect a fire hall. Is there anything written down as to which communities will be getting new fire halls? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now there is nothing indicating which communities would get new fire halls. With respect to the communities that the member mentioned, I can tell him that there will be a review starting in April 2019 to locate lots in Whale Cove and Arviat for the new fire halls. In April 2019 the lots will be inspected to make sure they are adequate for the fire halls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is very good to hear.

Earlier one of my colleagues asked about the (interpretation ends) ICIP, Investing in Canada Plan. (interpretation) I would like to get more information. The

minister stated earlier that it would be good if the communities could make their proposals before Christmas. What kinds of proposals are they supposed to give you? I would like to know how long the proposal has to be and how much of a study they have to do beforehand, as well as where they would send it to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposals that we get for their needs are always different, but such information as the purpose and how much it would cost would have to be in the proposal. The communities that want to apply know how to fill out those forms and what information is required. If they are not sure, the Department of Community and Government Services has an office that can assist hamlets on those matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The hamlets have to submit proposals before Christmas. Along the same lines, I want to ask about private businesses. This is not about Internet technology, but it's about generating energy. It's called the (interpretation ends) Arctic Energy Fund (interpretation) and there's \$17.5 million available annually. Will private businesses be given an opportunity to apply for funding to generate energy so that we won't be so dependent on diesel fuel in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I think it would be best for companies that are interested in producing energy to have dialogue with the QEC and those types of companies. The door is not closed to small businesses that want to make money out of producing energy through that fund. I think you would understand my response if I put it that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll switch gears again. I'm trying to get through my questions as quickly as possible.

In your letter dated yesterday, I'm just curious about this parking garage construction program. I understand that this program is under development, but what is the concept behind this parking garage construction program? It's a huge need in my home community of Arviat right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): All the hamlets are building parking garages. We hear it from you and we hear it directly from the hamlets. As we can see through the integrated community sustainability plans, there's a shortage of parking garages for vehicles. I think we have to look at how to catch up with the amount of garages that are needed and how we can work with the hamlets to reach that goal. We're trying to figure out how we're going to do that.

We need to find out how much money is

required for parking garages because each community is different. Some communities have raised their own money that they earn interest on and other communities don't have any money. We have to see the best route to take for that. That's what the letter is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Let me turn to something else again. The residents of Whale Cove have been experiencing water issues for the past four years; (interpretation ends) every summer, a boil water advisory for the community of Whale Cove. I know the department did put in a temporary water treatment plant and I know that the tender is out for a permanent or the scoping or design on a permanent water treatment plant.

I'm just concerned about the period from now until when we can get the permanent plant up and running. The filter box that's the temporary water treatment plant is a sea can type system. I'm going to quote from the Whale Cove integrated community sustainability plan. "This year a temporary Filterboxx WTP was put in place, however there were adverse water sample results, water output issues and system deficiencies. Basically the system as designed couldn't meet the demands of the community."

(interpretation) Has there been any consideration done on that matter? I would like to hear from the minister what the residents of Whale Cove can expect to be done for the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's regretful that Whale Cove had to go through that and it's regretful when communities have to go through that, which is not on purpose.

The water filtration system in Whale Cove has been set up so that it can run during the winter. We're thinking that it should run until spring. There are usually fewer boil water advisories in the wintertime anyway. We're thinking that the work will begin in April. We don't want to see any boil water advisories in the coming year until the new water treatment plant is completed in Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very inconvenient. I thank the minister for recognizing that. It's very inconvenient for the people of Whale Cove.

Looking at all of Nunavut, how many communities experience boil water advisories or have problems with their water supplies today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. Not very many communities over the last few years have had boil water advisories. Some boil water advisories take longer to be lifted while others don't take very long.

This year Whale Cove had a boil water advisory almost all summer. Sanikiluaq also had boil water advisory. Although Rankin Inlet is on an utilidor system, they had a boil water advisory this spring and summer due to high turbidity levels at the water source. Those are the communities that had boil water advisories. Sometimes they don't last for very long, but other times it takes longer. It also happened in Iqaluit. That's the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to another subject that was brought up yesterday, fibre optics.

Looking at the substantiation sheet that was provided, I would like to get clarification on (interpretation ends) the first page, "Business case required. Yes. No. No." (interpretation) I'm not entirely sure and because I'm a new member, I'm not very well versed in some areas. However, according to my understanding, if a project is going to cost over \$2 million, there has to be a business case. (interpretation ends) I just want to know why it says no on the substantiation sheet.

My apologies for jumping between languages. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Devereaux is probably better versed in this area, so I would appreciate it if you could allow him to respond, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. If I understand the question correctly, it was in relation to the government's capital planning process around major capital projects and the undertaking of business cases in addition to the standard substantiation sheets that get shared and how that unfolded with this particular project.

Where we're at today is coming forward to seek the money to proceed in the construction, knowing that the government has already appropriated a sum of money to complete a design phase. Prior to the appropriation that occurred in the last year for the \$6 million, which a portion came from federal funding and a portion came from the GN, I think at that point in time I wasn't here to speak to that capital request, but the substantiation around the request for the \$6 million to undertake the design phase for fibre infrastructure was being driven by, again, as we spoke about yesterday, the opportunity in the marketplace to undertake the marine engineering survey this summer in conjunction with a similar type of undertaking that was going on with the KRG team in Nunavik.

When CGS came forward to put in the capital request for the \$6 million design money, at that point in time there would have been a substantiation that spoke about the project and where we were hoping to go with the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Was a business case prepared, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Devereaux respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. In terms of a business case, we just completed the business case probably about two months ago. It was one of the requirements as well to advance the application to the federal government for the 75 percent funding, or the \$90 million funding. That business case has now been completed and has been shared with the federal government. It's going through the process in Ottawa for consideration of approval of that funding from the Treasury Board, which we are hoping might be in place by February/March 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the answer. I'm relieved to hear that the business case was prepared. Would members be able to be provided with a copy of that business case whenever convenient? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sure, I think that that request could be fulfilled. We will provide it as soon as we can make it available in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm almost done with my questions on this project.

Also on the first stage it says the estimates class "A." Looking at the government's own documentation it says, "Class 'A' estimates are generally based on construction documents which are 100 percent complete." And then later on it says, "The accuracy of this estimate is generally within an approximate range of 5 to 10 percent depending on the complexity of the project and whether the project is new construction or renovation."

I would like to understand: is this what we can expect with the total capital cost here being \$126 million that it will stay within that 5 to 10 percent range because it does say it's a class "A" estimate? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. Yes, we are comfortable with that figure staying within those parameters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess a class “A” estimate, from my understanding, is supposed to be based on a realistic construction schedule and accurate material and labour costs. I don’t want to get too far down into the bottom of the ocean or into the weeds, but in terms of the construction schedule, what is the construction schedule and what are the set milestones from where we are now until the anticipated completion? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Without getting into the bottom of the ocean, we anticipate... . Thank you for the question. We anticipate summer 2020 to start and have it completed by that late fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My final question on this is there is always an O&M component to capital projects. I know this is a capital budget and we’re not approving an O&M component, but given the department has clarified that four communities will be serviced by this project, what is the anticipated O&M that will be associated with servicing those four communities? Will it require additional staff? Will there be maintenance costs associated with this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are anticipating that the O&M will be offset by the use of the services from the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Final question No. 2, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What is the anticipated revenue from the private sector? I’m just looking for a ballpark. On an annual basis, what is your anticipated revenue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s kind of premature at this time to get into the details of that until sometime next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpreter): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That was my final question; I just have two comments I wanted to end on. First of all, I would like to suggest that the department, maybe for next year, look at changing the way the financial information is presented. I mean, the way it is presented right now, federal funds are treated like they don’t belong to us, but they do belong to us. That’s the way I feel.

Using this fibre project as an example, we’re asked to appropriate a total of \$30 million over the next two years for this project, but the true cost is over \$120 million and we’re the ones who control

where those federal dollars go. That is just a suggestion. I feel it would be a more accurate, true representation of what is actually being spent and what we're actually being asked to approve. It might be helpful for all projects, if the department feels that would be beneficial.

A final comment about dust control, I'm a resident of Arviat and I'm very happy to say that we do not have a problem with dust because the hamlet is incredibly good at dealing with it. I know that the Hamlet of Arviat has had some communication with other hamlets in terms of training and ways to help them out. If other communities are looking for a place to learn or, I think, as long as the hamlet is well compensated for their costs or time sacrificed, they could help to spread the gospel of proper dust control. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: They are just comments. Do you want to comment? Okay. I just have three more names and that's all the names we will be getting at this point. We have spent a while on this page. You will have time to ask questions in the House or you can go see the minister. I ask the people who are going to ask questions... . You may ask same questions that have been asked in a different way, please, I ask you not to. The next name on the list is Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep it brief. I understand that the minister and his staff have been answering our questions for a considerable length of time.

I only have two lines of questioning. The

first question is going to be regarding the South Baffin Energy Management Project.

Earlier the minister stated that the contract is going to be with a private firm, MCW, and that MCW would be recouping the cost savings to fund this project. I was wondering if the minister may provide a little bit more detail about how that works. Specifically the substantiation sheet indicates that the anticipated annual utility cost savings is \$1.8 million per year. How is that figure worked into the contract if the actual savings are above or below that mark? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll have Mr. Devereaux respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. To provide some clarity around the energy management projects that we have undertaken and continue to undertake, in the Kivalliq region we have gone ahead and we are in the construction implementation phase for an energy management program in which the capital investment has been undertaken by the third party contractor and the guaranteed savings would go back to that contractor to repay the capital investment.

For the South Baffin Energy Management Project, we have brought forward a strategy in which we would seek approximately 25 percent of the

capital investment from the GN and seek approximately 75 percent from one of the funding envelopes, the energy envelope from the recently announced federal... I just want to clarify that we're not undertaking a contract for the South Baffin Energy Management Project in the same manner. We're approaching this project with the intention that we, along with the federal government's contribution, would pay the capital investment at the very front end. 100 percent of all energy savings going forward would be realized by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. Before I began my questioning, I forgot to give a brief comment on the energy management projects. I just wanted to personally thank the minister for taking up these initiatives. I understand the department's efforts in putting forward these projects. I think it is extremely important for our territory to have these projects completed. The amount of anticipated reduction in CO2 emissions is considerable, so thank you very much for that.

My next question on the energy management project is, under the scope, there is a long list of energy efficiency measures. The last item is renewable energy and it's listing solar domestic hot water, solar air heating, and solar PV. I'm assuming that is photovoltaic, which are energy-generating solar panels.

My question is: which buildings in the South Baffin Energy Management

Project will be incorporating these renewable energy solar systems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question and I agree with you. I think our department is working very hard to make all of the government buildings that we are responsible for more energy efficient. The more efficient they are, the more money we have to spend on other things than literally watching our money go out the cracks in the windows and doors. It goes a long way. I appreciate your concern over that.

In terms of exactly the list of which buildings and what, we do have that information available. I can provide that to you in the near future. We just don't have that detail in front of us, but I would be more than happy to share it with you and our colleagues so you will have a good understanding of what window and which door are getting fixed where. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last question for this energy management project is going to be regarding the schools in the South Baffin. It's my understanding that in many of the communities, the school are listed as the emergency gathering places for the communities.

I do believe that it would be extremely important to incorporate these renewable energy systems or alternative power generating systems on these schools to ensure, in the event that a community

loses power, that there would be an alternative source to ensure the safety of the community members that are gathering in those locations. I would just like to make a comment on that that I hope that schools will be included in the buildings that are receiving those solar systems.

I'll proceed to my next line of questioning. It's regarding roads in communities. My question is: who is responsible for paving roads in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities are responsible for community roads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, second line of questioning, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. I have only one question. In the capital estimates for one of my constituency communities, I don't see any line items in regard to sewage lagoons. They do have a sewage lagoon in Taloyoak. I'm not sure if it's the same or if it's a unique design because I don't see any design on that. Can the minister elaborate on what kind of plans they have for that? I am asking this question for clarification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I believe you are talking about sewage

lagoons. We are reviewing the sewage lagoons and solid waste sites in the communities. I don't have the information on the status of his community's sewage lagoon. Once I get that information, I'll provide it to you during the session, just not today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I only have two questions to the minister.

Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved \$6.0 million in funding for his department's small capital budget in its 2018-19 capital estimates. Will the minister commit to tabling a detailed breakdown in the Legislative Assembly after the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year of how these funds were spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, I will be able to provide this information to my colleagues in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. My second question is the Minor Capital Block Funding Policy expired on March 31, 2018, and I would like to know what specific changes to the policy are being considered by your department and when a revised policy will be approved. It was in March of this

year that it ended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the policy you're referring to expired last year on March 31. At this time we are reviewing what needs to be amended and what needs to be done, and I know that the stakeholders need more authority to deal with this. Our plan is to conclude this evaluation in 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$29,875,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page J-5. Petroleum Products Division. Any questions? Petroleum Products Division. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,050,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page J-2. Community and Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$39,925,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, closing comments? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you very much for reviewing this. I will provide all the information I said I was going to provide as soon as possible. Thank you for asking questions on our budget. That is the only way we can operate properly.

(interpretation ends) I would like to thank the gentlemen beside me. They have worked tirelessly. We have spent six months without a deputy minister and these two gentlemen beside me have been a tremendous help, and so too are the departmental staff throughout Nunavut who have stepped up their game to make sure that our department could run as smoothly as possible without the deputy minister, whom I introduced you to yesterday. She is not here. I hope she didn't run away.

>> *Laughter*

I'm just kidding. She is upstairs. Thank you very much. Welcome, Constance, to our team, and I look forward to the rest of this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to thank you also for answering the committee's questions when asked.

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

We will now take a five-minute break to set up for the next department.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:01 and resumed at 16:08*

**Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2019-2020 – Education –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back to the committee. I would like to call the meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Joanasie: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Chairman and members. Yes, I would like my officials here with me. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Joanasie, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, Nunavummiut and members. On my left is Barry Cornthwaite, (interpretation ends) Manager of Capital, (interpretation) and on my right is my Deputy Minister of Education, Pujjuut Kusugak.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Education's proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates which total \$20,080,000.

The 44 schools across Nunavut represent a significant capital investment and commitment to education. Our schools host 9,085 students from kindergarten to grade 12, with 1,760 in the Kitikmeot region, 2,825 in the Kivalliq region, and 4,492 in the Qikiqtani region.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, to develop, plan, and manage the capital priorities I will be outlining, my department diligently gathers information from schools, communities, district education authorities, and the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, the following are the capital projects that will be continuing during the 2019-2020 fiscal year across Nunavut. These include:

- The new Peter Pitseolak High School in Cape Dorset, which opened to students on August 27, 2018. It is in its warranty phase. The warranty phase is used to ensure all building components are performing as intended.
- The Sakku School Major Renovation project in Coral Harbour is currently in the design stage. The design stage includes hiring a consultant to produce the construction tender documents.
- Igloolik's new high school is nearly completed. This school's scheduled completion date of June 2018 has been delayed due to deficiencies that are currently being addressed.
- Iqaluit's École des Trois-Soleil addition will be in the design phase. The school addition will eliminate

the need for shared spaces at Aqasarniit Middle School and the Inuksuk High School.

- Kugaaruk's new school is in its third year of construction. This school is scheduled to be completed in August 2019.

My department will be upgrading various information technology infrastructure projects. There is a need to replace or repair intrusion alarms, closed-circuit televisions, paging systems, and telephone systems.

There is also an additional need to replace Internet-capable devices, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART Boards, and printers, to ensure that they are capable of working with current software.

My department will be continuing with its ongoing lifecycle repairs. Lifecycle items include major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air handling units. These components require periodic repairs or replacement if they have met or exceeded their intended lifespan.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this budget allows us to prioritize our capital projects and those in collaboration with the Department of Community and Government Services. Additionally, this budget also prepares us for any needed repairs or replacements, enabling us to minimize any potential impacts on delivery of school programs.

Mr. Chairman, my department has very small capital projects which will

continue in 2019-2020. This budget not only covers projects that are often health and safety related, but also small projects such as wheelchair ramps, chairlifts, and mould remediation.

(interpretation ends) Lastly, each year we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2019-2020 we plan to continue our school bus project as we have in the past.

(interpretation) I look forward to your questions, comments, and analysis as we review the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital estimates for 2019-2020 include five community-specific projects, three of which are ongoing from previous fiscal years and two new projects. In addition, four projects will provide funding to meet various Nunavut-wide capital needs during the 2019-2020 fiscal year in such areas as ongoing maintenance, school buses, and information technology.

(interpretation) Members are pleased to note that the projects for new schools in Cape Dorset and Igloolik will be in their final warranty year while the new school project in Kugaaruk will go into its second year of construction.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, one of the new projects included in the Department of Education's 2019-2020 draft capital estimates is for a major renovation to the Sakku School in Coral Harbour. Standing committee members had a number of questions regarding the government's decision to proceed with a renovation instead of a replacement of this school. For a number of years, concerns have been raised regarding the Sakku School's poor physical condition.

It has been further suggested that the location upon which the school is built has led to a number of problems, in particular mould and ventilation issues. It was not clear to the standing committee to what extent the Coral Harbour District Education Authority has been involved in the decision to renovate the Sakku School instead of replacing it. Members also had a number of questions with respect to what other practical and financial options are taken into consideration when comparing options for proceeding with major renovations or [new] facilities.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's new project for an addition to Iqaluit's French school has been in the preplanning stage for some time. Members recognize that Iqaluit's growing school population size puts additional pressure on its educational facilities. Aqsarniit Middle School and Inuksuk High School have been providing additional space for

programming for Iqaluit's French-language students. The federal government contributed significantly to the original construction of Nunavut's only French-language school. Members look forward to updates on the department's progress in accessing additional federal funding to help pay for some of the costs of the proposed additions to the French-language school as well as updates on how the scope of the project will be impacted if federal funds are not made available.

Mr. Chairman, the department's current practice of prioritizing school projects takes into account such factors as student enrolments, attendance rates, and existing school capacity to determine what is called a 'utilization' rate. Members have expressed a number of concerns with the department's method of determining school attendance rates, in particular with the 'snapshot' recording of attending students on September 30 of each year. In many cases it was felt that the department's recorded numbers are not an accurate reflection of the number of attending students in some communities. This calculation not only has an impact on the utilization rates used to determine a community's need for additional educational space, but also affects funding allocations for district education authorities and the number of teaching positions in each community.

For capital planning purposes, members urge the department to put greater emphasis on long-term community population trends and anticipated future needs as well as taking into consideration any long-term environmental issues that certain schools may be facing.

Mr. Chairman, members appreciate the need for funding to be allocated towards the ongoing maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure, as well as the upgrading of equipment which is old or out of date. The Department of Education has identified four estimated budget areas for the upcoming fiscal year: small capital, ongoing lifecycle, buses, and IT infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, given the recent, severe and costly damage to Nunavut's education infrastructure, members encourage the department to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all school facilities and school playgrounds are protected from acts such as vandalism and arson. Members recognize that it may take some time to implement security measures for all of Nunavut's 44 schools but will support the minister in his efforts to implement such measures as installing barriers, extra skirting, additional security cameras, and employing security personnel as necessary.

Members continue to raise questions regarding the allocation of school buses for communities. It is not clear what criteria is used to establish the need for additional busing services, especially in those communities where new schools are at some distance from the community core or where wildlife threats are becoming more common occurrences. In addition, some communities are growing quickly and current busing arrangements seem inadequate to meet the needs.

Members would appreciate receiving an updated listing of the types of school busing services that are currently provided across all of Nunavut's

communities. Providing appropriate storage for buses is a growing concern with the increasing need to protect them from vandalism and harsh weather. Members would appreciate receiving any updates on what consideration has been given to allocating capital funding to the establishment of garages or storage space for community school buses.

Mr. Chairman, computer technology is now a standard tool in the delivery of education programs across Canada. Members are in full support of the minister's plans to update equipment across Nunavut's schools as technology evolves. Members further encourage the minister to work with his counterpart at Community and Government Services to address the disposal of old computer equipment in as efficient, economic and environmentally responsible manner as possible.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Well read. Do members have general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? General comments. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the new high school for Igloolik affects the student-educator ratio. I am cognizant of its impact, and I will have questions about this matter later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
Good afternoon, minister (interpretation) and your officials.

As we heard, it sounds like there will be major renovations to Coral Harbour's school. I would like the minister to know that I will have questions on it. The aging state that the school is in now has been brought up by my constituents since last week. I would like to let the minister know that I will have some questions about that. Thank you.

Chairman: General comments. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, welcome to the minister and your officials. I would like to thank the minister. This past summer he was able to go to Arviat. Arviat is growing really fast and there are many children now. We have three schools and I think we need four schools now. If that planned school had gone ahead, we would have four now. I'll have some questions about that. The minister saw with his own eyes how fast Arviat is growing and there are a great number of children. I want to thank him for doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and your officials. The minister is aware that he got a letter from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority. They have a bus, but they don't have storage

space for it in the winter and it no longer works when the weather gets cold. I will have questions about that later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Questions or general comments. Seeing none. Oh, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you saw me.

I'll have some brief questions about Kugaaruk's school that is under construction. The Minister of Education was able to come this summer for the opening of the airport terminal building in my other constituency community and the finance minister was there among others. It was great that they saw Taloyoak's old school. I'll also have brief questions about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more questions on the comments? None? We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates, starting on page G-3. Education. Corporate Services. Questions? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
Welcome, minister and your staff. Substantiation sheets page 2 of 5 (interpretation) says, (interpretation ends) "Critical building components are beyond their useful life. Architectural, mechanical and electrical components are in poor condition."

(interpretation) My community has been requesting a new school ever since Nunavut was created. I believe it was

renovated in 1995. The question I have is on (interpretation ends) the critical building components. (interpretation) Perhaps it's the walls and building foundations. If I read this correctly, it states that the school has deteriorated. I would like to ask the minister if that is the case. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the question. There has been a condition assessment on the Sakku School. (interpretation ends) The school has been deemed to be in extremely poor condition and that is why we are coming forward with a project to do a major renovation of the existing building that would be a full retrofit and an expansion of the existing school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our Sakku School sits on what used to be a small pond. When I was a child, we would go swimming in that pond. It was our swimming hole and the school was built on it. That was not mentioned.

The (interpretation ends) substantiation sheet (interpretation) states that (interpretation ends) "Water running through the school has created an ideal growing habitat for mould." (interpretation) I tabled some letters and pictures that I took, Mr. Chairman. I received some letters from parents. I presented them during (interpretation ends) tabling of documents.

(interpretation) The summers are getting

longer all the time and the permafrost is melting. There haven't been any new reports about the pond that is under the school. We heard recently that it is safe. Which information is more accurate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the question. First I should say that if any resident of Coral Harbour or his constituents have health or safety concerns, it would be best if they got seen at the health centre so that they can see what is causing the problem. With the assistance of the Department of Community and Government Services, the business case was presented. Last year and in the past there were some studies done on the Sakku School to check to see if there is any mould or other hazardous substances.

For those studies, (interpretation ends) to date we have received the previous results and we have conducted multiple assessments that have deemed the school to be "occupiable." That's where we get the direction from CGS and after these assessments are done, that states people can be in this building, so that's where we stand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This substantiation sheet says the last time there was a document given to us by the Department of Education, it says, "In 2012 a condition report was produced by VFA Stantec which identified the need for major renovations."

(interpretation) Were there any other studies done after that, (interpretation ends) to the recollection of the minister? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, there have been numerous tests done at the Sakku School and onsite investigations as far back as 2006, and then more recently in November 2015 there was a mould and fungal assessment done. Last year in 2017 alone there were at least three: in June 2017 a hazardous building material survey; then in October 2017 a mould air sampling report; and then in December 2017 BluMetric baseline air monitoring. Then the member talked about the most recent one that was conducted this month. We haven't had those results yet.

Like I said, all results have concluded that these... . Sorry. Hold on. They have concluded that the school is safe to occupy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister responded earlier to one of my questions that parents who have sick children should go to the health centre.

Very recently I was at the school for about 45 minutes and I got a headache. The place gives you headaches and the teachers I spoke to said that whenever they're there, they don't feel as well, especially people who are sensitive to those things. They get itchy and they start to get rashes on their skin, but when they leave the building, they are back to

normal. Even if they go to the nursing station, the nurse will say they are fine. Once I left that building, my headache was gone.

We believe our constituents and we are elected to be their voice. Does the minister not believe the letters I tabled here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the question. I'm not a doctor, so I can't really comment. We either believe in what people say or we don't. Even though that is the situation, we think that the concerns should be addressed through the major renovation if it proceeds. We don't want our students and staff to be in a dangerous place. We're trying to get the renovation started as quickly as possible. It will be able to proceed if we are approved here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was someone from Coral Harbour whom I flew here with. I was late getting here, as you are aware. It was on Tuesday of last week. He was in Coral Harbour on the weekend and he took many samples from our school. Does the government know what those samples contained? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasia.

Hon. David Joanasia (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you can allow Mr. Cornthwaite to respond with regard to the testing that was done.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The tests that were completed by BluMetric have been sent to the lab and the preliminary results have been shared with us. They indicated that there is no evidence of mould in the occupied teaching areas of the school, but the detailed report will be released to us in approximately two weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure how to say this, but when you're from Coral Harbour and you're trying to work with community members... This school was built in 1995, which is before Nunavut was created, but we're not sure what the future holds. We believe that the water under the school spread, but the government will deny that. They won't say things are bad when they actually are. We're concerned about it.

Last evening I was talking to Mayor Willie Nakoolak, and he is concerned about the condition of the school. Even if it is renovated, the water under the school will just get worse and deteriorate the condition of the school once again. Following *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, it is now obvious that the school is deteriorating because of the water under the building.

Mr. Chairman, until we completely understand the full extent of our school's renovation, I want to remove this item from here. We need to clearly

understand what the extent of the damage is and what needs to be done in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the funds allocated for this project be removed until we are fully informed as Coral Harbour residents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I ask my committee if Mr. Netser would read the motion. Yes? Mr. Netser.

**Committee Motion 004 – 5(2):
Deletion of \$1,900,000 from the
2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the
Department of Education**

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note the minister's staff has said that there is nothing to fear from the preliminary results from the recent study. Based on that, we are not sure and we do not trust what the government is saying anymore.

Based on that and prior to getting a proper assessment from the recent study, I move that the \$1.9 million be deleted from the proposed funding for the "Sakku School Major Renovation" project in the 2019-2020 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser, please provide a copy of your motion to the table.

Thank you. As the motion is not translated, we will take a short break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:45 and resumed at 17:01*

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back to the committee. I call the committee meeting back to order. The motion is being distributed to the members.

The motion is in order. To the motion.
Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for coming back.

Mr. Chairman, I do believe that the government works as best they can and when we're talking about our school, I do believe that they are going to restore (interpretation ends) the structure of the building. (interpretation) However, in the substantiation sheet, the water under the school builds up all the time and it doesn't seem to be mentioned.

Even if there is a major renovation done on our school, there is the water under the building. It's drained daily for a total of three hours, but it's obvious that it can be drained all day long. If there is nothing done about the water under the building, we will just use a lot of money from the limited funds that we have. The school may look perfect, but it will keep getting deteriorated by the slough that is under the building if it's not addressed.

The Department of Education and the government say that there's no mould in the school and I believe it might not be mould, but the smell of the water goes all over the school. Our students and staff are getting sick.

With that and to add further, before I came here, I had a meeting with the

hamlet council and the DEA. The hamlet said that they don't mind if the planned project is removed. I told them that even if it's deleted, the government is the one that holds the money and I don't know if they're going to bring it back. He said that it's okay. We have been asking for a school for many years and it has never shown up in the five-year capital plan. He said that we can wait further.

Again, I had a conversation with Mayor Willie Nakoolak last night. He's a good leader and he's concerned about our community. (interpretation ends) Our mayor has taken the leadership in preparing plans to look at other options so that our students will have a place for learning.

The community feels that the longer they stay in our school in its condition even now, they fear for the health of the students and the staff. Based on that, that is why I brought the motion forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on the subject, I think there should be further dialogue between the Department of Education and my colleague. I think that would be better. With that in mind, (interpretation ends) I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All opposed. The motion is carried

>>Laughter

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 9, with one committee motion to be discussed, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Hickee.

>>Laughter

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there is a meeting of the Management and Services Board at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 1:

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 2
 - Bill 9
 - Committee Motion 4 – 5(2)
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
20. Report of the Committee of the

Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

This House stands adjourned until
Thursday, November 1, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:13*

